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## The George-Anne

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## SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

### ‘Back to 1998’

The president says that the proposed cuts will take us back 10 years. What did we look like then?

### Your Views

See our expanded VIEWS section for letters from students, administration and state leaders.



### Self-sufficient operations

Possible cuts to state funding could cause operations like the Ball Wildlife Center to become self-sufficient.

# THE GEORGE-ANNE

Thursday, March 11, 2010

APRIL 30  
PAULSON  
STADIUM

# MCGRAW

How can the university afford this with state budget cuts looming?

SEE PAGE 16 FOR DETAILS

## Tim McGraw to play Paulson April 30 for spring show

Matt MAUNEY  
special assignments editor

Tim McGraw, national Nashville recording artist and actor, will perform at Paulson Stadium on Friday, April 30 at 7 p.m., according to [timmcgraw.com](http://timmcgraw.com).

The show will be the first large production spring concert since Brad Paisley's Bonfires and Amplifiers tour, featuring Taylor Swift, Jack Ingram and Kellie Pickler, which came to Statesboro on April 27, 2007.

"We feel that this will be a great show and will blow Brad Paisley out of the water," Sriratanakoul said.

Unlike the Paisley show, however, McGraw will not be coming as part of his national "Southern Voice Tour."

This means that additional acts that normally tour with McGraw, like Lady Antebellum, The Lost Trailers and Love and Theft, will not be playing at the Statesboro show.

Jonathan Singleton & the Grove, a country music band whose single "Livin in Paradise" debuted at number 60 on the country charts in April 2009, will be the opening act for McGraw. That single peaked at number 48 on the country charts and was followed by the single "Look Who's Back in Love," which debuted at the number 60 spot on December 26, according to [Billboard.com](http://Billboard.com).

The show will be open to both students and the general public.

Georgia Southern students will be able to purchase tickets for \$28 dollars for stand seating and \$35 dollars for field access.

Faculty and staff tickets, along with general admission ticket prices will be announced as soon as the contracts are finalized.

"When pricing the tickets, we wanted to make sure that the students got the best deal," Sriratanakoul said.

To compare, ticket prices for McGraw shows in Detroit and Jacksonville (the two dates before and after his GSU performance) ranged from \$29.75-\$84.75 and \$26.75-\$56.25 respectfully.

This means that for students who would like to be on the field, putting them as close as right next to the stage, students will save between \$21 and \$50 per ticket.

"Although everyone is invited to this show, it's mainly for the students. The prices are evaluated and set based on what we estimate we will need to make in order to break even for the cost of the show," Sriratanakoul said.

Stay tune to The George-Anne and GAdaily.com for updates on the McGraw concert.

Student Ticket Prices (2 per student ID)	
Stand seating	\$28
Field Access	\$35





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**Jaybo Shaw makes move to GSU @ GADaily.com.**

## Wastin' Away Over Spring Break

Staff members look ahead to next week's vacation

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## Weekend Wrap

Kicking off spring break with friends? Musical acts and dining deals here

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Thursday, March 11, 2010  
Volume 82 • Issue 63  
Serving Georgia Southern  
and Statesboro since 1927

# THE GEORGE-ANNE

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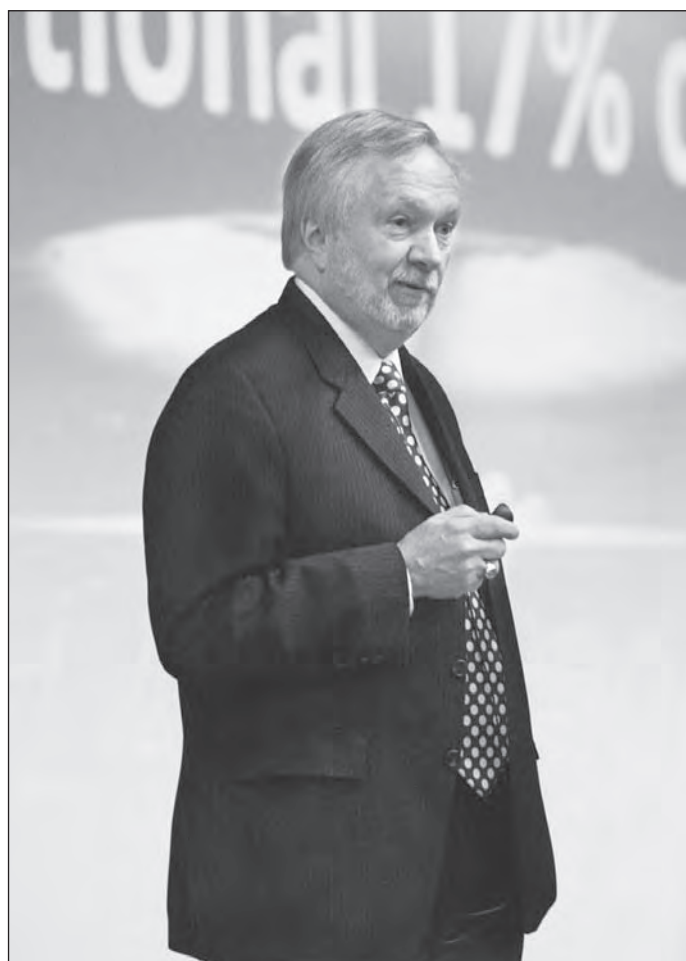
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**ROTC may prove safe from cuts ... page 17**

'This is a massive cut by anyone's imagination. To put this in perspective, this takes us back to 1998 and the budget when we had 14,000 students here. ... If this comes to pass ...

## 'It sets us back 10 years'



A look at where we came from and how we got where we are

Charles MINSHEW • editor-in-chief

Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel said that proposed cuts to the university's budget "takes us back to 1998" – when only 13,904 students were enrolled, only four national championship flags flew over Paulson Stadium and the university only received \$66 million in state funding.

The proposed cuts could possibly take the level of state appropriations down from approximately \$100 million in 2009 to \$62.3 million while the university population knocks on the door of 20,000 students. How then, can GSU maintain progress in 2010 with a budget that looks like it came from 1998?

"The Legislature is still debating exactly what that cut could be," Keel said at a faculty forum on March 1. "Now,

that's the bad news because we don't know what it's going to be. The good news is that they are debating. They have not decided yet. This should be a call to action for all of us."

Keel has called the cuts "devastating" and that the proposals are only in preparation for the "worst-case scenario."

"This is a massive cut by anyone's imagination," Keel said. "To put this in perspective, this takes us back to 1998 and the budget when we had 14,000 students here. If this does come to pass – and let me emphasize that this is a worst-case scenario – if this does come to pass, it sets us back 10 years; a decade in terms of the progress this university has made."

See **TEN YEARS** Page 4

Courtesy of Georgia Southern  
Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel addresses faculty members during one of three faculty forums he held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Faculty was allowed to voice concerns and offer suggestions during the sessions.



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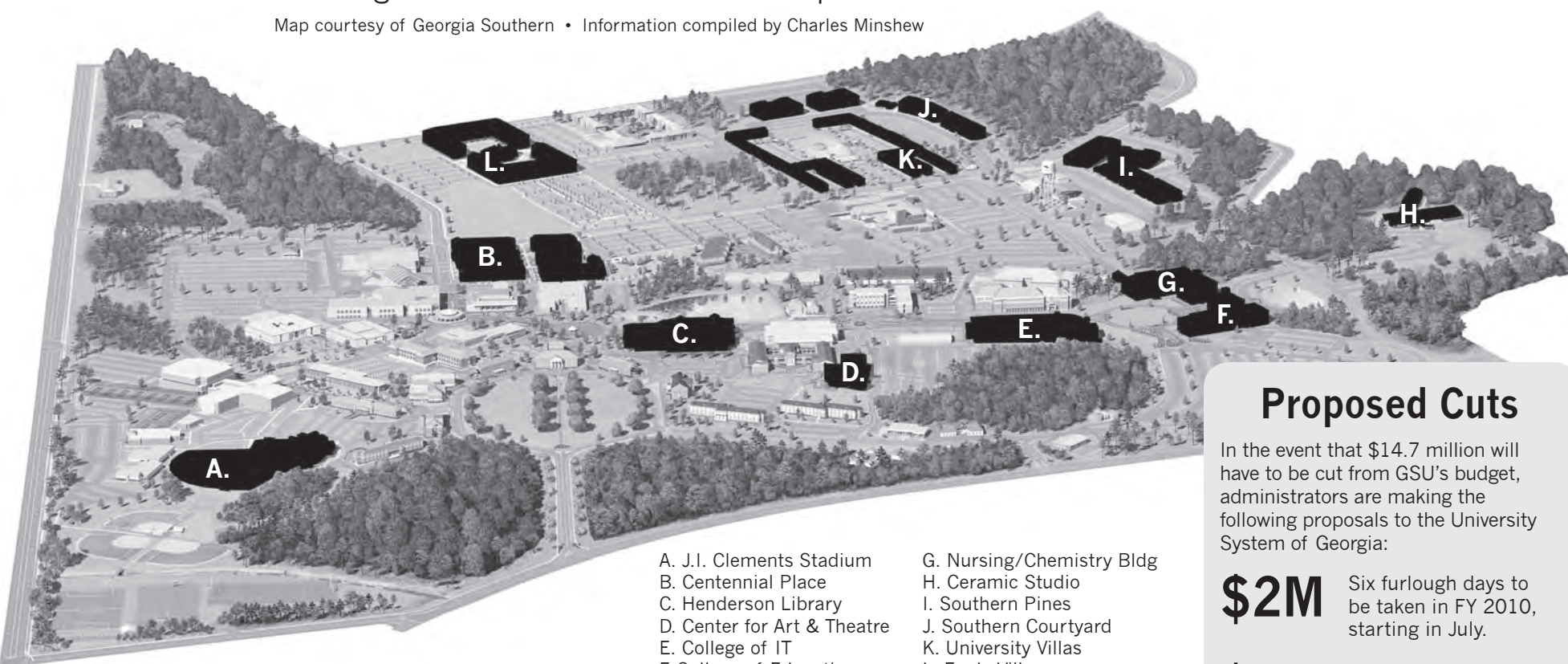
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# The difference a decade makes

These buildings have been added to the campus since 1998

Map courtesy of Georgia Southern • Information compiled by Charles Minshew



## TEN YEARS

from page 3

Between 1998 and 2009, state appropriations for GSU increased – quickly. With this increase in funding also came an increase in academic programs, student services and buildings.

By 2006, state appropriations approached the \$75 million mark. Three years later, in 2009, state appropriations reached an all time high of nearly \$100 million. If the proposed budget reductions are approved, those appropriations could plummet to \$62.3 million, an approximately 30 percent drop in state funding.

Even with the addition of 6,000 students, GSU has been able to maintain the “large-scale, small feel.” But, what difference does 10 years make?

While the cuts are only proposals and the chances of erasing 10 years of history are slim, the progress that GSU has made can easily be described as immense. At least three academic buildings, four residence halls and other facilities have been constructed, purchased or renovated in the span of 10 years.

Much of the progress that GSU has made is visible through the physical expansion of the

campus. Since 1998, buildings for the College of Education, the College of Information Technology, the Center for Art and Theatre and the nursing and chemistry departments have been constructed.

In 1998, students still lived in Hendricks and Veazey halls. Olliff, Johnson and Winburn halls stood where Centennial Place does now. Henderson Library was half of its current size and looked nothing like it does today after its more than \$40 million renovation.

Bruce Grube had not even been named president of GSU in 1998; Nicholas Henry was serving his last year in the position.

The Recreation Activities Center opened in 1998. On the opening, Henry climbed to the top of the climbing wall to dedicate the building, according to “The Southern Century.” A few years later, students supported raising their student fees to support the expansion, which is now part of the complex today.

While new buildings were constructed, new colleges and degree programs were being developed.

The College of Information Technology did not exist until 2001, and the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health was founded in 2004.

Throughout the past 12 years, at least 20

new degree programs have been implemented at GSU, including the B.A. in Writing and Linguistics, Doctor of Nursing Practice and an M.A. in Social Sciences.

GSU also had its first Ph.D. program – logistics – approved, and classes are scheduled to begin in Fall 2010.

In the past 12 years, Eagle Village, Southern Courtyard, Southern Pines and Centennial Place were constructed, while University Villas was purchased. These complexes now provide nearly 3,350 on-campus bed spaces for students.

At the same time, the addition of 6,000 students has caused class sizes to increase from an average of 26 students per class to 39 students per class, according to the GSU Fact Book.

As GSU moves into the new decade, however, these proposed budget cuts provide a sense of uncertainty. Students have expressed concerns over their education and faculty and staff are worried about the security of their jobs.

What will the next ten years bring? Keel has said that a decision on the budget reductions could be handed down by the state legislature on April 1.

Until then, all of the proposals are just that. Nothing is final.

## Proposed Cuts

In the event that \$14.7 million will have to be cut from GSU's budget, administrators are making the following proposals to the University System of Georgia:

**\$2M**

Six furlough days to be taken in FY 2010, starting in July.

**\$3M**

Elimination of state subsidy that is used to support the Division of Continuing Education. Keel said that these entities will not be eliminated, but they will have to become self-sufficient.

**\$4M**

Elimination of one-half of all temporary faculty. This equates to 63 full-time temporary faculty and 54 part-time temporary faculty.

**\$2M**

Elimination of 67 staff positions. The number is equivalent to the current number of vacant positions.

**\$1M**

Unspecified cuts to athletics programs.

**\$2.7M**

Consolidation, elimination of academic programs. Keel said that a committee would determine what programs are cut.



## Our View

## It's our Georgia Southern

In the past weeks, talk of budget cuts and slashing programs has sparked rage and fear in many throughout the state of Georgia. As a student, faculty or staff member, your anger and frustration is justified. The proposed budget cuts could change the face of Georgia Southern if put into effect. Despite efforts by the administration of GSU to be transparent, rumors have spread like wildfire and have fueled confusion and panic.

Hence an entire issue of The George-Anne dedicated to proposed budget cuts.

This issue of The George-Anne is meant to provide a comprehensive package of what is going on regarding the proposed budget cuts we've all heard so much about. This is our attempt to offer explanation where clarity is needed and to remind everyone that these cuts are only proposed cuts.

More importantly, a large portion of this edition gives the opinions of a variety of different people. This week, we've seen people out protesting and collecting signatures for a petition. We know that, even though it's the week before spring break, this problem angers enough people to get them

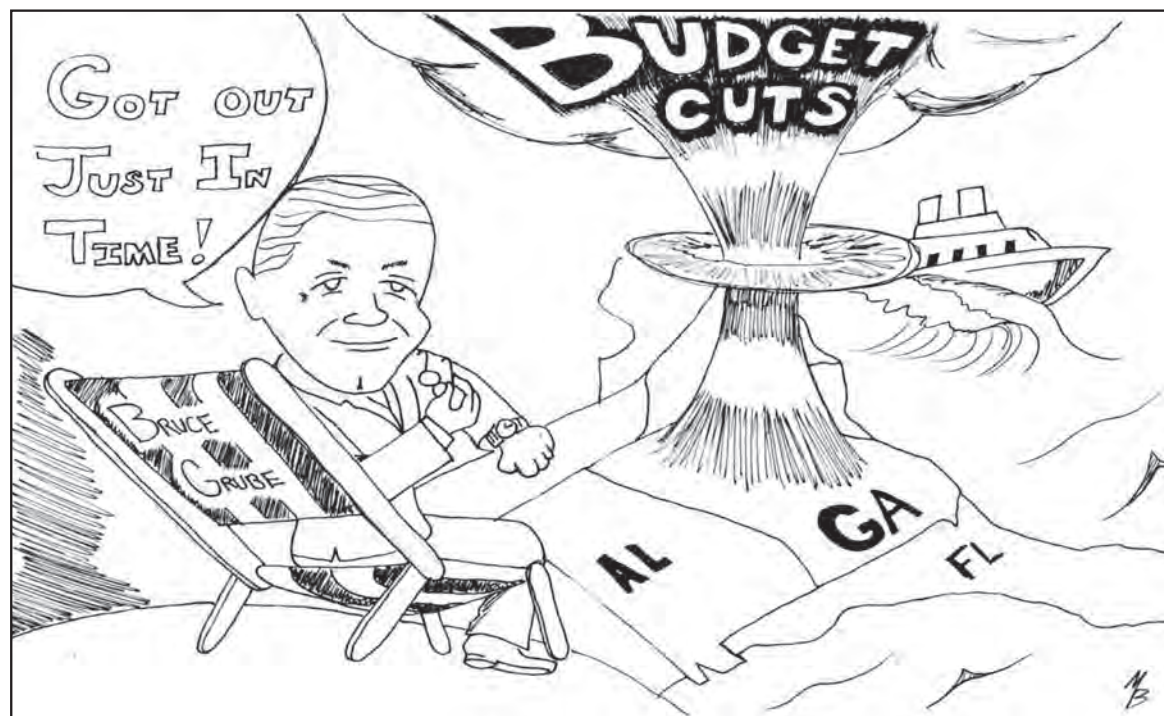
to go out and do something about it.

While administrators have said that no specific program will be cut, there's still an air of uncertainty.

On March 15, students will rally underneath the gold dome of the Georgia Capitol. Sure, it's spring break for all of us, but if you're in the Atlanta area, urge congressional leaders to stop these cuts from happening. Hand them a copy of this edition of The George-Anne and show the legislators that these proposed cuts stand to change the face of our beloved Georgia Southern.

Show them what faculty, students and administrators are saying. Show them the value that these vital individuals, departments, colleges and divisions hold here on our campus.

We all understand that sacrifices need to be made. We all understand that our tuition may need to go up a little. We all understand that some of the bells and whistles we enjoy may need to go. But, we don't understand why the University System of Georgia may have to pick up \$300 million of a \$1 billion budget shortfall.



## A dangerous game to play

Between my editors and my radio co-host, I recently found out that every university with a nursing program has proposed cutting it as one of its budget measures. The reason is to "galvanize the doctors" in the state to come to the aid of the schools. While any support would be good, however, it's a move that shows how political this has become. I don't want there to be budget cuts, but I also agree in part with the politicians who say that the Regents are using these "proposals" as scare tactics. The truth is, the schools were told not to put forth a suggestion they weren't ready to follow through with, and in the worst case scenario, the whole nursing education system of the state of Georgia would go away. This is just one example of why we the USG needs to avoid playing politics with our budgets.

The idea that the nursing cuts would bring doctors forward is a reasonable one. We face a nursing crisis. The state has a shortage of nurses – graduates would have little trouble finding a job in-state, which



**John DiPietro** is a junior political science major from John's Creek, Ga. He is a staff columnist for The George-Anne.

in turn makes the state economies more robust. And, with the baby boomers making up so much of the labor force in all areas, their imminent retirement will cause more shortfalls with one of the most important jobs in any area. Even though I'm not a nursing major, I realize how important it is to the future of our great state.

But no matter how effective the threat is, it still doesn't mean that it should have been made. The idea of cutting such a significant program is too scary to consider. We need the program, just as we need many other programs. Whatever happens, we will lose something; the university making something like that a possible target, however, is just bad form. What if the

legislature calls the bluff? What should be happening instead is the reduction of incoming students. I'm saying this here and now: cap enrollment here at GSU. For one thing, it will take a massive burden off of the teachers who have to give up higher level courses to teach cores instead. This means that people won't have to stick around for additional years, waiting for a course rotation schedule to accommodate them; it also means that teachers won't have to work as hard to fill the increased demand for those lower level classes. Faster student turnover also means more people ready to join the work force with an education, meaning they can fill higher level jobs and help stabilize the state economy. It also means that the programs that exist can continue to exist, so that students aren't driven away to other universities or even states.

Let's stop playing politics and start playing sense – take off the majors from the list of budget cut possibilities and stop the increase in our already-overflowing student body.

## THE GEORGE-ANNE

Phone: 912-478-5246

## Spring 2010 Editorial Board

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# Issue lost to cuts needs attention

You're probably expecting to read about budget cuts and the effects they're having on Georgia Southern. While I've written about that for the past few weeks now, and it's become an issue that I'm quite passionate about, I've also decided – after talking to various friends and colleagues of mine – that there's another issue worthy of this column space that you may not be aware of.

Recent weeks in California have seen massive protests against proposed budget cuts there, centered on the campus in Berkeley. However, other protests have taken place at UC San Diego, but there they are about the blatant racism on display at the university in recent weeks. The following is a summation of the events that caused this outrage.

A “Compton Cook-Out” was held off the campus of UC San Diego on Feb. 15. Just by the title alone, you can deduce that such a party was not exactly perceived as racially sensitive by the black community at that university. The incident was followed up by the editor of the campus' humor newspaper “The Koala” going on the student-run television network and calling those who protested the party as “ungrateful” ... and then a word that I won't type

here, but starts with “n” and is the most vile racial slur in the English language.

“The Koala” also released their newest issue on March 3, which is full of more racial satire that – quite honestly – is some of the most disgusting “humor” I've read in my life. Search for “The Koala” online, and you can read it yourself. While some may find it funny, in light of the “Compton Cookout” incident, it's nothing more than stoking the fires of greater racial tensions on that campus.

The icing on the racism cake came with a noose discovered at the UC San Diego's library on Feb. 25. Add to that more recent incidents involving Ku Klux Klan hoods being placed on a statue at UC San Diego, a swastika put on a Jewish students' door at UC Davis, and other swastikas found on that same campus several days later, and we see a pattern of hate spreading through the



**Robert Greene II** is a graduate student in history from Augusta, Ga. He is a guest columnist for The George-Anne.

University of California system.

I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that these incidents are the work of a minuscule minority, but it is a reminder that despite the fact that we have a president of African descent, racism still exists in our society. And these incidents aren't just familiar to California. Clemson University in South Carolina had a “gangsta” themed party the day before Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was observed. I remember writing about that incident in the pages of this newspaper when it took place in 2007. I hoped at the time I wouldn't have to write about something like that again.

The solidarity shown by students in recent weeks over budget cuts lets me know that, for the most part, racism among our age group is something to be mocked and deplored. But there will always be a few that live in the past. GSU has done an excellent job of incorporating black and other minority groups into the university's community of students, faculty and staff, but let's keep that atmosphere going before something like this happens here.

Let's hope that someday, all of this will be seen just in history books and not the latest news.

## Opportunities to come together a good thing

You may have heard about the Jabbawockeez and Tim McGraw performances at our campus in April. If you haven't, well, I hope you'll check out both events now.

But with all of the prospective budget cuts and bad news that has plagued Georgia Southern and the rest of the state lately, you might be a little confused about pieces of good news. To be sure, they cost GSU some money, but it's not from the same budget.

These events come from your Student Activity Fee.

You know, that thing that's tagged onto your tuition every semester? While university fees go towards academic units, this helps fund campus activities, and you very much have the opportunity to decide where the money goes.

Eagle Entertainment, the student

programming board at Georgia Southern, plans campus events each semester. If you're interested, applications are always available on the Office of Student Activities Web site.

With all of this negativity in the air lately, some might think it's inappropriate for us to hold such events.

Believe me, I understand the grave nature of the prospective future in front of us. I'm graduating in May to a bad economy, totally unsure of where I'm



**James Kicklighter** is a senior public relations from Claxton, Ga. He is a staff columnist for The George-Anne.

going, while family members worry about teaching jobs in K-12.

Even in the bleakest times, I've always believed we have to find some joy in the sadness.

That's exactly what we're doing when the campus supports the Jabbawockeez and Tim McGraw performances. We're taking time, just for a few moments, to forget about the world outside, appreciating the opportunities that we have today.

First and foremost, we are a community of scholars, students, professors, and professional staff. I can't think of anyone that doesn't want to support our family, because we are all in this together.

This April, we have the chance to come together in larger ways than we do usually. In times like these, that's a good thing.

## Letters to the Editor

### Time to look for realistic solutions

**Editor:**

Waiting until the last possible second to dig the state out of a deep, black hole, Georgia lawmakers chose the easy way out: to strip the University System of Georgia bare, eliminating programs and laying off thousands upon thousands of employees to the tune of \$600 million, over half of Georgia's \$1.1 billion budget deficit. During tough economic times, tough decisions must be made of course, but why must the education system carry the heaviest burden?

The implementation of such a proposal would have far-reaching and long-lasting effects, harming not only research programs, on-campus student organizations and hundreds of professors, but incoming freshman – potential students that would eventually help form the backbone of the state economy.

The stubborn refusal by lawmakers to seek out new sources of revenue and find creative ways to help balance the state budget, while also nonchalantly proposing massive cuts to a well-respected and admired education system are shamefully lazy cop-outs of the highest degree. Their opposition to allowing Sunday alcohol sales as at least one small way to help create a new source of state revenue without imposing higher taxes or raising tuition costs is a perfect example of how our inane inept elected officials have selfishly betrayed the interests of the public. They should be ashamed. It's time for these pathetic goons to work together and actually serve their constituencies, as opposed to allowing the same rigid party platforms, closed-minded religious ideologies and good-ol'-boy cronyism to ruin any opportunities of finding realistic solutions for the people that need them most.

**Will Adams, Avila, Spain**  
Former Executive Editor of  
The George-Anne (2007-2008)

### Ridiculous to sacrifice nursing for athletics

Reading through the details of the proposed budget cuts is nothing short of alarming – larger class sizes, fewer staff, more furlough days and the elimination of graduate and undergraduate programs.

What really suprised me is the proposed \$1 million cut for athletic programs. According to the board of regents, this amounts to a 12 percent budget cut. Now this might seem like a lot at first, but it really is a small amount, especially when compared to other proposed cuts. Take Georgia Southern's nationally recognized nursing program for example. Its budget is set to be cut by 100 percent (i.e. the program is set to be eliminated). Same thing goes for the ROTC program. This is all a part of the \$4 million cut that would eliminate 117 faculty positions.

The last time I checked, this university had a “no pass, no play rule.” The idea behind this rule is that students should place academics first, and athletics as a lower priority. I find it baffling that the board of board of regents isn't doing the same. These proposed budget cuts, which hit academic programs much harder than athletic programs, have made me question where the priorities of the board of regents really lay.

I know I'm not alone in feeling this way. I've read a number of comments on Facebook and GADaily Web site where others have noticed athletics getting off pretty easy. What I haven't seen anybody else pick up on is the fact that the \$1 million cuts to athletic programs represents a meager 6.8 percent of the total \$14.7 million in proposed cuts.

I'm not suggesting that we not have athletics at GSU. They could be funded through the Southern Boosters, donations or sponsorships. I'm saying that it's ridiculous to sacrifice a top-notch nursing program in favor of the athletic program.

**Joseph Hazan, senior**  
mechanical engineering  
technology major

See **LETTERS** Page 7



## Letters to the Editor

### Legislators, restore the American dream

Editor:

It seems that lawmakers have taken a road toward eliminating the American dream. With unemployment currently at 9.7 percent, the only smart alternative is to return to school. Budget cuts will reduce professors, eliminate or modify majors, increase tuition and enlarge class sizes.

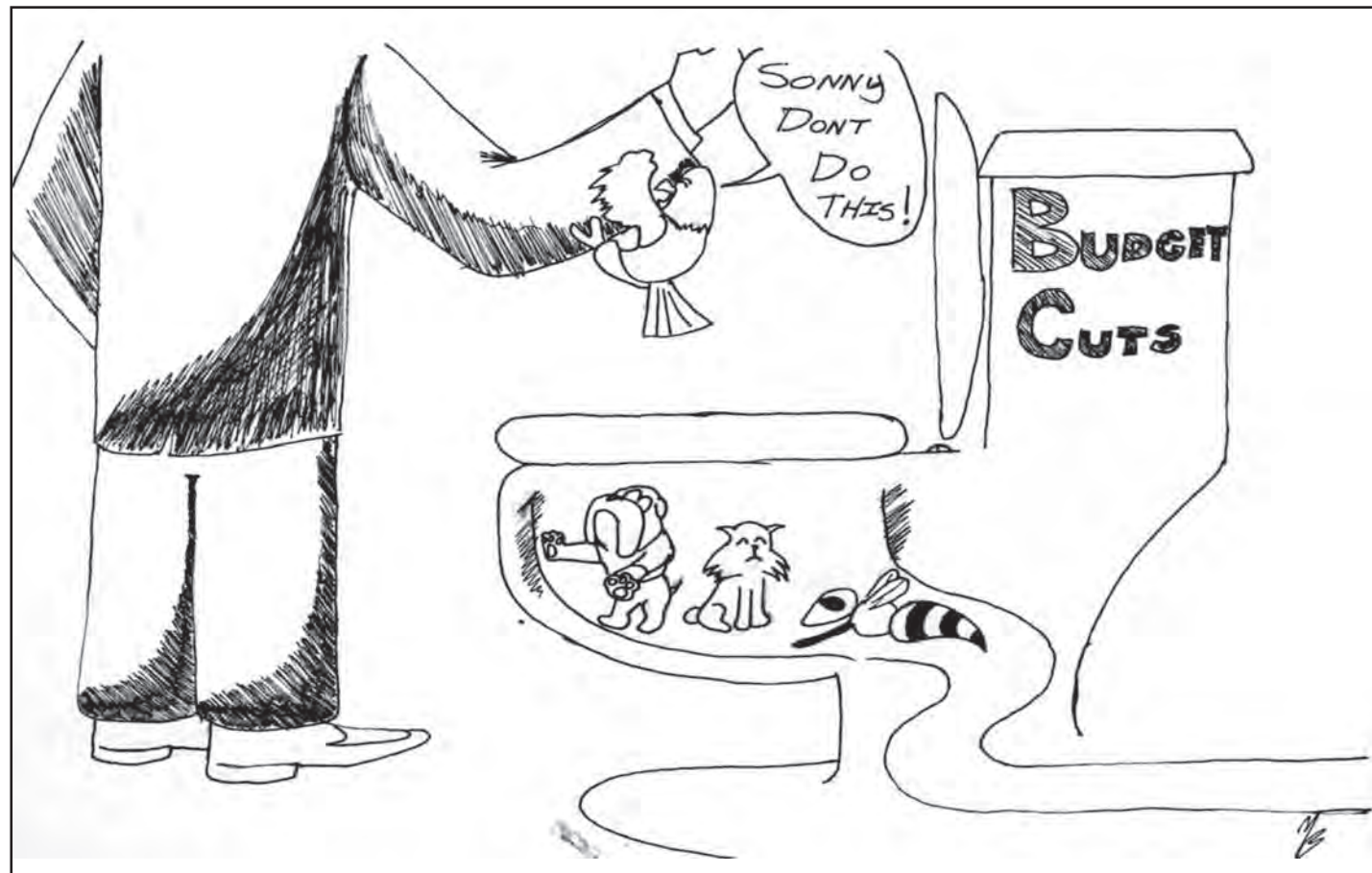
Students and citizens already face economic problems. Destroy education funding and be prepared for crime to escalate.

Humans are equipped for survival. Is it an intelligent choice to modify our education budget and spend more money policing crime?

Politicians need to take a stand for our education system in Georgia and get us off the lowest school rating charts. Restore the American dream.

Gregory Sapp, sophomore psychology major

See **LETTERS** Page 8



# Eagles, may you live in interesting times

There's an old saying, supposedly a Chinese proverb (or curse!!) that goes something like "May you live in interesting times." To say that the past week has been interesting would be a huge understatement!! As you all should know by now, we have been asked to prepare for a "worst case scenario" reduction in our state appropriated budget of approximately \$27 million, or 30 percent. A reduction of this magnitude, if in fact mandated, would set us back more than a decade in terms of our budget, and would indeed change the face of Georgia Southern as we now know it. We will not know exactly what our budget will look like, or how severe any cuts will be until sometime in April when the Georgia Legislature passes the state budget, and we will not be able to make definitive plans for making budget cuts until then. However, in the meantime, there are important things I think we can all do now.

▲ **First, stay informed.** We have set up a Web site at [georgiasouthern.edu/budget](http://georgiasouthern.edu/budget) to serve as a central repository of information regarding the budget and our plans to address any shortfalls. There you will find the latest news and webcasts on the issues, suggestions

on ways you can get involved in the process, answers to frequently asked questions and ways to stay connected. We will try to keep everyone informed every step of the way, and we will use this Web site as the primary venue for getting the word out.

▲ **Second, don't panic.** There is a great deal of uncertainty right now, and I know that it is frustrating, if not frightening, at times. Keep in mind that, although this is not yet a done deal, we are currently planning for the worst case. Although we have made no definitive plans to cut any specific programs at this point, in this worst case, there would no doubt be changes to many of our programs. Some might be trimmed, some might be consolidated, and some might even be eliminated at some point. However, please know that protecting the academic core (meaning educating our students) is our primary objective, even in the worst of



Brooks Keel is the current president of Georgia Southern University.

budgetary times. While in the worst case scenario class sizes might increase, and some students might have fewer choices of electives, we will do everything we can to ensure that all of our students graduate in a timely manner.

▲ **Third, don't believe everything you hear.** Sometimes not knowing is the hard part. Uncertain times, and lack of factual information, breeds rumors. While a potential 30 percent cut to our state budget would obviously hurt, rumors will most certainly kill us. Get the facts, and then act. So, go back to the first thing I mentioned and don't do the second thing.

▲ **Fourth, stay focused on the future.** We do indeed have to plan for the worst case. But, we also have a choice in how we deal with this situation. We can become so absorbed with worrying about the uncertainties of today that we become paralyzed, unable to move. Or, we can focus on tomorrow, plan for our future, and continue to move this great university forward and upward. I firmly believe that those institutions that have the courage to plan for the future, even while facing difficult budgetary times will be the ones who are poised to make quantum

leaps forward when the economy improves. And yes, it will eventually improve. I believe that most of you came to GSU for the same reason I did: you wanted to be at a place that is making a difference, either in our own lives or in the lives and futures of others. The only way we can continue to make a difference is to always strive to make this an even better university than it is today.

These are indeed interesting times. However, in the short time I have been here, I have come to appreciate that the Eagle Nation is incredibly supportive, strong and resilient. That's why we call it "True Blue" (a die hard, enthusiastic lifetime supporter of GSU). That True Blue spirit has brought us this far, will sustain us through the hard times, and will carry us forward into what I firmly believe will be a very bright future.

So, stay informed, stay positive, stay focused, stay in class, and most importantly stay True Blue. We are all in this together, and together we will get through even the worst of the "worst case scenarios" and be all the stronger because of it.

Thank you all very much, and GO EAGLES!!



# Cuts not the solution

These budget cuts have left me angry – yes, angry – in the past week. At a recent press conference in Atlanta, leaders of the House-Senate budget committee, Rep. Earl Ehrhart and Sen. Seth Harp, left people with more questions than answers and built up confusion.

Ehrhart, never giving a straight answer to reporters, claimed that the additional cuts were not likely, but then went on to state that they were very possible. Well, which one is it? What has caused our lawmakers to become so fiscally schizophrenic?

Most everyone has heard of the budget crisis going on in our higher education system, with the budget committee proposing an additional \$300 million dollars in cuts on top of \$265 million in cuts that the governor has proposed. A frenzy of college students, educators and parents have all flooded the legislature with emails, complaints and their general feelings of unhappiness. While the governor has denounced the additional cuts and chastised the legislature for its “scare tactics and fear mongering,” uncertainty is still the overriding feeling on college campuses across Georgia.

I don't believe that the issue is simply cutting more money out of the budget but rather creating an academic environment at Georgia Southern that is so radically different from the ideals and the mission that it worked to maintain over the past several decades. My younger sister will be attending GSU in the fall, and I am truly worried about the Georgia Southern that she will know. All the things I've told her about smaller classes, great resources and a more personal learning environment may all but disappear completely if these additional budget cuts take hold.

What lawmakers don't seem to understand is that there is no such thing as a universal solution to the balancing the budget. Every cut will affect different universities



**Ally Rakoczy** is a senior marketing major from Decatur, Ga. She is a staff columnist for The George-Anne.

in Georgia in different ways; some in more ways than others. Larger institutions like the University of Georgia, which is sitting on a heavy amount of

outside grant money and already has oversized classes and graduate students teaching, won't be hit nearly as hard as the mid-sized and smaller institutions in Georgia, such as Georgia College and State University and our own Georgia Southern.

Other solutions are out there if we absolutely must cut more money from the budget. When faculty at big name Georgia universities are sitting pretty with bloated salaries and unnecessary spending is occurring every day, lawmakers have to realize that the students should not be the ones to bear the brunt of the cost if this does end up happening. In the current economy, a 10 or even 15 percent cut in already inflated salaries would do wonders for the budget and cutting down on things like overtime pay for hourly students and staff could easily help ease the cuts without eliminating any jobs.

However, a bigger question remains. Why is Georgia constantly cannibalizing its education system? When so many more programs exist in the state that can weather cuts, why does the legislature automatically turn to higher education? So in order to find this out, continue to send emails to the legislature. Continue to voice your protests of the cuts. Continue to do all that you can to show them that these cuts would alter the higher educational landscape indefinitely—and not for the better.

## People of Georgia are not pawns

**Editor:**

I'm writing this in response to the recent fiscal crisis. I am a temporary instructor in the Justice Studies program at GSU. I worked in the juvenile justice system for 12 years before I was fortunate enough to be offered my current position. I shed blood, sweat and tears doing this work, and I had a positive impact on the young people I worked with and their families.

These last four years I have had the opportunity to share my experiences with students. As a result of my experience, my classes are not just theoretical. I use my experience to illustrate theory. I give my students specific skills that they can immediately put to use as criminal justice professionals. I also give them pointers about how to find a job in the criminal justice system, making them more competitive in the job market. In addition to my teaching duties, I also advise and am an active supporter and participant in campus life.

I find a great deal of satisfaction in teaching. Before, I made a direct difference in the lives of troubled youth. Now I make a difference indirectly through my students.

However, due to the budget crisis, I will not be teaching next year. The classes that I teach have been cut from the schedule. Not only does this end my time at GSU, but it also jeopardizes the ability of many students to graduate in four

## Letters to the Editor



**According to temporary faculty member** Chris Booker, his classes have been cut from the schedule.

years. I am also confused about the reasons being given for cutting my classes. According to my math, with tuition at \$134 per credit hour, I generate over \$80,000 per year for GSU.

I don't know anything about the budget or the current deliberations. What I do know is that there is a lot of gamesmanship going on. I would like to remind all of the people involved that the faculty, staff, and most especially the students of Georgia are not pawns. We are real live human beings. There is waste that can be cut out of the budget, but it is also vital to make an investment in the people who will be running this state in 30 years.

**Chris Booker, temp faculty  
GSU Dept. of Political Science**

## It's time to prioritize, come together

**Editor:**

Millions of students have benefited from the world-class educational system known as the University System of Georgia. Our achievement in creating a system like the one in place remains one of the brightest accomplishments in Georgia's rich history. As we continue to endure the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression, severe cuts will need to be made to ensure the future of such an upstanding program.

As the chairman of the Higher Education Committee, my fellow committee members and I have the responsibility of allocating funds for

the University System of Georgia. It is important to remember that our commitment to higher education over the last five years has been significant. We have consistently put more funding into this program when the funds were available.

Unfortunately, this recession has gravely affected our state revenues and has required us to reverse this trend of increasing funds for higher education. The time has come to prioritize and make the hard decisions without compromising the integrity of an upstanding program like the USG.

We cannot allow for our students and programs to bear the brunt of these impending cuts. Instead, we must look within the highest levels of the administration and ask them to share the burden. Since our nation's inception, we have seen that true leaders are the first to make sacrifices for the benefit of others. I am calling on the leaders of our state's universities to share in the sacrifice.

These economic times are a unique situation for us all and there is no roadmap. What we have now is a one time historic opportunity to join together as legislators to work in tandem with the Board of Regents. Together, we will reach a balance that will continue the excellence we have in higher education throughout Georgia.

**Sen. Seth Harp  
Chairman for the Senate  
Higher Education Committee**

See **LETTERS** Page 9



## Letters to the Editor

### Shared governance and slashed budgets

The Georgia Southern University chapter of the American Association of University Professors stands with President Keel, faculty, staff and students in their efforts to preserve the integrity of Georgia Southern University's academic core. The budget reduction proposed by some members of the Georgia Legislature, which would follow last year's drastic budget cut, would leave Georgia Southern unable to achieve its mission. Moreover, the proposed cuts will have a ripple effect throughout

the region, devastating our already weakened economy. It is rarely a good idea to cut education in a budget crisis, for in the long term, those cuts may only serve to prolong the crisis.

The AAUP recommends that all necessary decisions be made with attention to principles of shared governance and with meaningful input from faculty, students, and staff. Therefore, as the University struggles to meet the necessary budget reductions, we support the inclusion of faculty seats on all budget committees. The national AAUP has clear guidelines on how universities should proceed during budget crises.

Although our membership recognizes that dismissals appear inevitable in the current situation, we believe that there should be fair policies and transparent processes that lead to dismissal of faculty and elimination of programs.

The AAUP supports students and all ranks of faculty and urge them to contact us. Working together to oppose these steep budget reductions, we can weather this storm and emerge stronger than ever before.

**Cliff Price, president**  
**GSU Chapter of the AAUP**  
**Michelle Haberland, vice president**  
**GSU Chapter of the AAUP**

### 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](mailto:gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu). Readers may access the newspaper and its archives at [www.gadaily.com](http://www.gadaily.com).

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## Letters to the editor always welcome here

Here at The George-Anne we strive to maintain certain standards. As a newspaper, it is our responsibility to be objective, professional, informative and collaborative, but most importantly, it is our responsibility to serve as a public forum. One avenue by which we meet our standards is through letters to the editor.

I check my e-mail numerous times a day, and nothing brings a smile to my face like a letter to the editor. To me that says that someone reads our paper and feels strongly enough to put their name to an issue.

Don't wait until we advertise a special issue. The weather is always right for a letter to the editor – good news or bad. We would enjoy having six pages of Views weekly. [Gamed@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:Gamed@georgiasouthern.edu). Use it.



**Katherine Kennedy** is a senior geography major from Brooklet, Ga. and is currently managing editor of The George-Anne.



## Man on the Street

The G-A staff takes to the Pedestrium to get the student, faculty and staff's take on things.

### How do you feel about Tim McGraw coming in the midst of budget cuts?



"I didn't know he was coming, but I think it's just ridiclous because we're spending money on entertainment when people are losing their jobs."

**Charima Kimberly**  
**freshman, chemistry**



"It hasn't really affected me personally so it doesn't matter to me."

**Marco Chairez**  
**freshman, biology**



"I feel like it's a cool thing because despite the budget cuts, they're going to let us have a good time and continue with what makes this school exceptional."

**Mercedes Drake**  
**junior, fashion merchandising**



"I think it's unnecessary unless he's coming for free. We should save the money for next year."

**Shirelle King**  
**sophomore, journalism**



"I'm sure that it will pay for itself so I'm happy about it. P.S. I hope his wife is coming."

**Jordan Belcher**  
**junior, construction management**



"I think it could be a good thing because it can get students excited and make them want to help out the cause for budget cuts."

**Amber Dixon**  
**junior, pre-nursing**



# A LETTER REGARDING THE EDUCATIONAL BUDGET CUTS FROM GEORGIA SOUTHERN GRADUATE AND STATE SENATOR

# JACK HILL



## DEAR GEORGIA SOUTHERN STUDENTS:

I must admit that writing a letter defending my work for Georgia Southern is pretty weird since I have spent my entire 20 year career as the Senator from the Fourth District working to make Georgia Southern the very best institution in the Regents System. And with the help of the Bulloch County Delegation, namely Rep. Bob Lane, we have been very successful. I lost count at the \$200 million dollar level. In fact every new building on this campus got here through some state public official's efforts.

After working to secure the \$4 million planning funds last year, we will be working this year to try and secure funds for a \$32 million Biology building that is badly needed.

In my family we bleed Eagle Blue. At last count, from my wife to our children and spouses, we hold at least 11 degrees from Georgia Southern. We don't even allow anyone in our family who went anywhere else.

It has not been apparent from some of the publicity that has emanated from this campus, but Rep. Lane, Rep. Jon Burns and Rep. Butch Parrish and I are the best friends this institution has and will continue to be. We understand, more than most, the incredible economic engine that Georgia Southern provides for this area.

*I may be reached at:* 234 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334 | (404) 656-5038 (Phone) | (404) 657-7094 (Fax) | [Jack.Hill@senate.ga.gov](mailto:Jack.Hill@senate.ga.gov)  
*Or Call Toll-Free at:* 1-800-367-3334 (Day or Night) | *Reidsville office:* (912) 557-3811

So, to the current situation. I hope the severe recession this country and state is in has not touched your family, but you probably know someone who has lost a job or lost their home. Georgia has suffered more than it has in seventy years as our tax collections, mostly from income tax and sales taxes have dropped some 25%, or \$4.5 billion, in just 2 years. As policy makers, we are truly struggling to take care of children, senior citizens, the mentally ill and disabled, and to keep the public safe with law enforcement and prisons just to mention only some of those who cannot take care of themselves or from whom the public needs protection.

Some of you have discovered that Georgia spends 42-45% of the state budget on K-12 education and some 16% on higher education in colleges and technical schools. You can understand, then, some of the difficulty we face in fitting our expenditures to what revenues we are receiving.

We have accumulated a \$1.1 billion shortfall in the FY2011 Budget presently being crafted which follows tax collections that have fallen over \$1.6 billion just since April of 2009. State agencies have virtually no other source of revenue than state taxes. Local boards of education mostly only have property and some sales taxes to make up their budgets.

Only the Board of Regents has the option of charging fees and tuition as a replacement for shortfalls in state funds.

Governor Perdue's FY2011 Budget allocates \$2.08 billion in state funds to the Board of Regents. When combined with other funds including tuition, that budget exceeds \$5 billion dollars.

His proposed budget cuts reduced that amount by \$223 million less federal stimulus funds. It is likely an additional cut of \$100 to \$150 million will be required to meet the budget shortfall. You need to know that the Board of Regents will have all of the tools it normally has including tuition increase and use of fees in meeting these cuts.

Some legislators and students have been surprised and shocked at some of the salaries being paid at the University of Georgia and possibly other institutions. I am pretty sure of one thing: the faculty and staff at Georgia Southern on average are certainly not overpaid and probably the opposite is true.

All of us as Georgians have a stake in your success at Georgia Southern and it is our hope that you will be tax-paying citizens as soon as possible... But you are Georgians as well, native or adopted. Working our way out of this recession will take us all working together, finding innovative ways to do more with less, and demanding transparency so we all understand our path forward..

I have enjoyed talking and communicating with those of you who have called or sent emails. As always, if you contact me, I will call or return your message.

You can depend on one thing for sure. Those of us who represent you in the local legislative delegation will continue to work to insure that the University has all of the resources possible to insure your timely success at Georgia Southern and that you have the great experience here that we and our families have had.

By the way, I write a weekly column on state issues. If you do not receive it and would like to, let me know via e-mail at [Jack.Hill@senate.ga.gov](mailto:Jack.Hill@senate.ga.gov).

**Jack Hill**  
*State Senate*



# Nursing program to flat-line?

Dean: School would not be eliminated, enrollment in program would be limited

Kelsey SORRELL  
staff writer

Now that Georgia Southern is tentatively facing \$14.7 million in budget cuts, the nursing program is listed as a possible loss in order to meet the cuts proposed by the legislature.

Jean Bartels, the dean for the college of health and human sciences, said that GSU would need to eliminate half of the part-time and temporary faculty currently teaching at the university.

"The nursing program uses these part-time and temporary faculty to assist with clinical teaching experiences for all nursing students," she said.

"If we were to lose a significant number of part-time and temporary faculty, it would be difficult to teach all of the clinical courses required in the program. While we would not eliminate the nursing program, we would need to limit the number of students who we could admit to the program," she said.

The school of nursing will continue to offer clinical experiences for all students in the nursing program, making them all eligible to graduate. The incoming class admissions may need to be decreased in order to meet the limited number of faculty. However, Bartels said that the very highest level of classroom and clinical experiences will be available to all students in the program.

"While I do not believe that this will occur, the school of nursing faculty would assure that all students already admitted to the nursing program would be provided with all the courses they would need to graduate from the program," she said.

Sophomore pre-nursing major Emily Whitaker plans to apply for the nursing program next fall. She said that she is scared about the nursing program possibly getting cut because other colleges may experience the same thing.

"I'm definitely worried about my future," she said. "I'm getting closer to graduation and I'm not sure to what schools I should apply. I'm also disappointed because I love my school and I'd hoped to come to graduate school here."

"I feel like every part of our university is important, and I wish we weren't getting budget cuts at all," she said. "I don't think education is something you should budget cut like this."

Donna Hodnicki, a professor and school chair



The nursing program at Georgia Southern is in the top 11 percent in the country and helps meet the shortage of nurses in the state.

Courtesy of Georgia Southern

for the school of nursing, said that nationwide, there is not enough faculty nor enough nurses. More nurses have to be prepared, but we need more faculty in order to prepare them, so GSU is trying to do both at the same time.

"We're trying to increase the number of nurses who are prepared as faculty so they can go and increase the number of nurses that are graduated every year in the state of Georgia," she said. "Currently, we have 19 students in the doctor and nursing practice program, with a quarter of those students who have chosen the education option in our program because they would like to teach."

"We're hoping that we're going to increase the number of nursing faculty in the state of Georgia in the next two years by some of our DNP graduates or students from fall of 2010," she said.

GSU currently has about 213 students in the pre-licensure program, with at least 50 going through the registered nurse to bachelor's of science in nursing program, about 75 master's students that are basically practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. The majority of graduate programs are all family nurse practitioners who are being prepared to go out

and provide primary care services to the rural and underserved areas in Georgia.

In 1990, GSU prepared 240 FNPs for the area. The school was one of the first three FNP programs in the state. GSU started a masters program in 1998. The first masters-prepared FNP students graduated in 1990.

"Our program is in the top 11 percent in the nation and the certification pass rate is over 99 percent," Hodnicki said. "Also, most probably, 85 percent of our graduates stay in an area to serve rural and vulnerable situations."

In order to prepare for the budget cuts, the school of nursing is looking at the fall and spring classes to figure out what the faculty needs would be, because the clinical sites restrict the number of students by law.

The board of nursing regulation requires that GSU has one faculty member to oversee every 10 students. The clinical sites — for their own reasons — however, are only allowing the nursing program to have six or seven students, requiring even more faculty members hired by the university.

"I think we've generally known there's going to be cuts across all programs; you can't have a budget that's in the red. I think the legislature

"I don't believe that the nursing program at Georgia Southern is going to be eliminated. [...] It would be foolish to eliminate any program in the state of Georgia when we desperately need nurses and I just don't see Georgia or the administration doing that."

Donna Hodnicki  
Professor, school of nursing

and the board of regents is looking at all options to bring the Georgia budget and they're going to have to make some very tough decisions," she said.

Hodnicki said that health care reform is at the top of the president's list. In order to expand health care, you have to have more physicians, more nurse practitioners, more physician assistants, nurses, more doctorally prepared nurses and more complex healthcare needs around the state.

"The nursing crisis and the faculty crises is real, unfortunately, a lot of the physicians are choosing specialty," she said. "I'm concerned about who's going to provide care for all the additional people who aren't going to have insurance if health care reform is passed."

"It just emphasizes the fact that we need to expand the nursing programs and not cut them in any way, and to do that we need more faculty, faculty salaries need to be competitive, and we need to have creative teaching strategies."

"I don't believe that the nursing program at Georgia Southern is going to be eliminated. We'll have to cut back a bit, but this is one of the top programs in the state and in the country," she said. "It would be foolish to eliminate any program in the state of Georgia when we desperately need nurses and I just don't see Georgia or the administration doing that."



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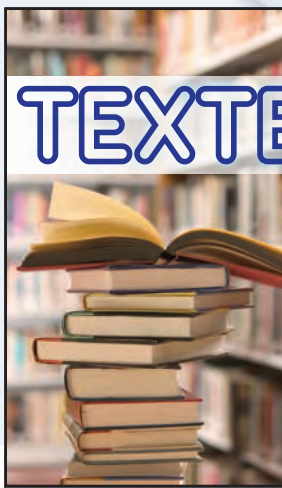
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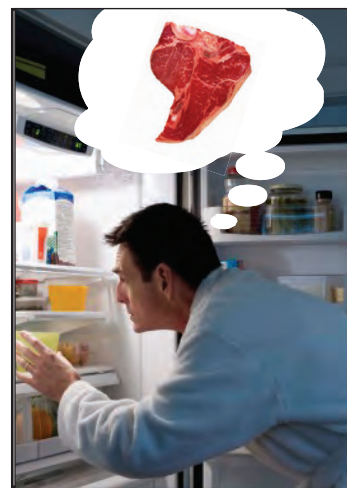
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# Faculty cuts mean class cuts

## Price: Temporary faculty ‘always hit hardest by budgetary decisions’

Rachel CASON  
guest writer

President Brooks Keel recently announced that, among other things, up to 117 temporary faculty positions could be cut as a part of the overall budget cuts taking place in the University System of Georgia.

While he said in the video message that this was the worst-case scenario, it has left many temporary faculty members feeling pressure about their job security.

Faculty reactions at this time tend toward a “wait and see” attitude. Some departments, such as the foreign language and history departments, depend heavily on temporary faculty as a main part of their work force.

Eric Kartchner, chair of the foreign languages department said, “In [foreign languages], six of our current instructors are funded with temporary funds.”

He said while there are plans to convert two of these positions to full, permanent staff positions, there would still have to be temporary funds available for four people.

“If we lost all four of these instructors in the fall, this would represent a reduction of twenty sections per semester,” he said.

“Specifically, this would mean that we could no longer offer any Latin classes, that French would be reduced from 14 sections to nine sections at the very time that the French enrollments have started to increase, and that Spanish would be reduced by ten sections per semester.

“This type of reduction would affect the progress of 600 students toward the completion of their BS or BA language requirement or of their FL major or minor,” he said.

Michael Moore, a professor in the department of curriculum, foundations, and reading, said it was important to keep the number 117 in perspective.

“Remember when Dr. Keel mentioned this he was reacting to a worst case scenario,” he said. “Since then, the governor has sided with the university system and it doesn’t look like the cuts will be as bad as previously announced.

“I imagine, depending on what the cuts actually are, that the President will back off this

“As far as I can tell, there is not a faculty member who would disagree with the notion that larger class sizes, less choice for classes, and the complete extinction of some classes will not be good for our students in the long run.”

Monica Hunt  
Temporary instructor, department of history

number in a sliding scale kind of way,” he said.

Moore also said that he was not certain how the cuts would be determined but that, “My best guess is what would affect classes the most would be reinstated first and what has negligible impact on classes would remain on the block.”

Monica Hunt is a temporary faculty member in the department of history.

She said, “As far as I can tell, there is not a faculty member who would disagree with the notion that larger class sizes, less choice for classes, and the complete extinction of some classes will not be good for our students in the long run.

“The case should also be made that right now faculty are teaching at full capacity, have not received any additional increase in pay for increase in work, and — perhaps more importantly — the overall demoralization of the current faculty is rapidly reaching a nadir,” Hunt continued.

For other temporary faculty members, like history professor Deborah Hill, who said she has already been told that her position has been eliminated, these cuts could be detrimental.

She said, “As a temporary faculty member, I am distressed that my line will be eliminated, of course; especially since I am the sole support for my invalid husband and my elderly mother, who now lives with us.

“It is quite discouraging to realize that I have spent the past 11 years studying in my field only to be made, as one British friend called it, ‘redundant.’ Losing my insurance will be the most devastating,” she said.

Clifton Price, a temporary faculty member in the writing and linguistics department, in reaction to Keel’s announcement, said, “I can’t say I’m surprised by it. Temporary faculty

many of them had ever taught before.”

According to Price, the class size increase that such cuts would cause will be detrimental to the quality of students’ educations.

He said, “Teaching more classes with more students, of course, means temporary faculty have less time to interact individually with the students they teach, less time to prepare lessons, less time to grade essays and other projects, less time to stay abreast of important pedagogical developments in their respective disciplines and less time to ensure that their students are receiving the education they deserve.”

Hill said, “I think when students realize that their educational opportunities will be limited by a lack of faculty resources and the unavailability of upper level courses needed to complete their majors, they may find that their degrees may take much longer to achieve.”

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**The Center for Wildlife Education** aims to provide an educational experience not just for Georgia Southern students but for local citizens and school children. They have a variety of shows that focus on reptiles, amphibians, mammals, eagles and raptors.

Courtesy of Georgia Southern

# Personal enrichment not safe from cuts

## With greater budget cuts, the Division of CEPS could face devastating setbacks

James Kicklighter  
guest writer

As class sizes could increase at Georgia Southern, personal development opportunities may decrease.

The Division of Continuing Education and Public Service, which includes the Botanical Garden, Museum, Performing Arts Center, and the Center for Wildlife Education, along with numerous other services, could disappear if cuts come to pass.

Interim Dean of Continuing Education and Public Service Anthony Bretti wrote on the CEPS Web site, "Individuals should be prepared to be innovative in today's work environment ... [as] the demands in the workplace are changing at an incredible pace and coupled with ongoing technology. To answer this demand, customized workforce development training is offered through Georgia Southern University's Continuing Education and Public Service."

The demand has been explosive. In the past year, 118,000 visitors came to visit these four centers alone.

"If funding for the Continuing Education and Public Service Division was eliminated, we would have to change the mission of each of our outreach units, and how we operate with a significantly reduced number of employees," said Henry Whitfield, assistant dean of CEPS.

The number of conferences and events hosted at their outreach units, both on campus at Georgia Southern University as well as at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, would be greatly reduced, if not eliminated.

While these cuts would deeply impact the division, only a few of their full-time employees are funded by the state.

"The Museum has a total of 19 employees, and of those 19, we receive state funding for only four full-time employees," Whitfield stated. The numbers are similar for the Center

for Wildlife Education. "Our Botanical Garden and Performing Arts Center would operate with significantly fewer employees. We may receive funding from grants and other sources, but there is no guarantee."

But if these cuts were implemented, the division would have to drastically change the way they operate. All positions would be funded in-house, difficult for a division

that already depends on donations and volunteers.

"Should our state funding be reduced, each of our outreach units would develop a business plan unique to the unit as to how each would creatively

and innovatively generate funds to continue operations," he said. "Those business plans may include requests coordinated with our Georgia Southern University Advancement Office for major gifts from a variety of sources. Once the budgets are firm, our

outreach unit directors will then know the dollar amount needed to offset possible state funding reductions."

"We are not overstaffed, nor do we have generous budgets. We make do with what we have," said Whitfield. "How many times can you ask people for continued support? They may have to designate their gifts to be used for salaries."

These prospective cuts would not only impact professional staff, but also student workers.

"For students currently working in the Center for Wildlife Education or the Botanical Garden to gain training for careers, those opportunities may no longer be available."

Despite all of these proposals, they remain that, simply proposals. Whitfield remains hopeful.

"We're seeing a lot of activity from our supporters, not just from Statesboro and Bulloch County, but across the state," Whitfield said. "However, we are very optimistic and positive that we won't see the worst case scenarios take place."

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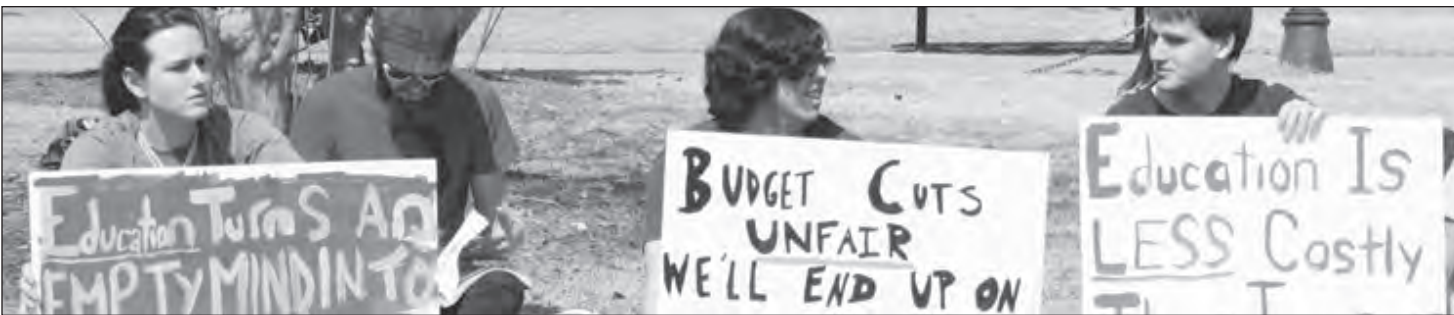
"If funding [...] was eliminated, we would have to change the mission of each of our outreach units."

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**Henry Whitfield**  
Assistant Dean of CEPS

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Kelly Vermeil/STAFF

**Students protested** the budget cuts by taking a stand by sitting down Tuesday at Sweetheart Circle and the Russell Union Rotunda.

# GSU fights for its identity

## Students, faculty and staff challenge the proposed cuts

Shannon STUART  
guest writer

Georgia Southern students, faculty and staff took over Sweetheart Circle for a rally Tuesday to voice their opinions and frustrations with the proposed state education budget cuts.

After news broke last week of the proposed additional \$300 million statewide budget cuts, faculty began fearing for their jobs and students realized their current majors may no longer exist in the future at GSU.

"I'll tell you what we are not here to support — legislature budget cuts," rally co-coordinator senior Andres Montes said. "For our state, for our nation, our foundation is education. If you take away our education, our state will start to crumble."

Montes, along with fellow students and GSU faculty urged students to take a stand against education budget cuts; he encouraged students to voice their frustrations and contact Georgia state representatives.

"I was once told that no one can take away your education. Well, that's exactly what [state representatives] are trying to do. They're trying to take away our education," Montes said.

According to GSU President Brooks Keel, in addition to the \$11 million in cuts GSU had already incorporated into next year's budget, the new proposed cuts would call for a \$14.7 million reduction in the budget, approximately a 30 percent cut in the state-funded portion of GSU's budget.

In order to compensate for the additional proposed budget cuts, GSU faculty could be forced to take six additional furlough days, on top of the six they are already required to take. GSU would also be forced to stop funding many campus facilities, including the Wildlife Center, Museum, Botanical Gardens, the Performing

### Student Forum

- ▲ **What:** Discussion with GSU President Brooks Keel
- ▲ **Where:** Russell Union Commons
- ▲ **When:** Today at Noon

Arts Center and the learning centers in Dublin, Brunswick and the coastal campus.

However, a more immediate problem facing students and faculty is the proposed reduction in staff and major programs.

"Please stand up for education," philosophy professor Maria Adamos said. "Stand up for your discipline."

Temporary instructor Clifton Price presented a very passionate speech, knowing his job position may be on the chopping block if the proposed cuts pass.

"I might lose my job, but I can find another one," Price said. "I've already been educated. You [students] are the ones that are going to suffer."

Price has had to take on more classes, which he believes takes away his ability to be as effective as he once was in the classroom.

"We have more students than ever before, but we are screwing them when they come through the doors," Price said. "Education is not a business."

David Dudley, professor of writing and linguistics, reiterated to students what President Keel is keeping most important in the fight against budget cuts — the students.

"There is no one at Georgia Southern that wants to end your major," Dudley said. "They are here for you."

City Councilman and GSU alumnus Will Britt also came out in support of students, faculty and staff and spoke against the

additional budget cuts. He urged students not only to contact local state representatives, but also contact every representative in Georgia.

"Let's contact every single one of them," Britt said. "Show them this campus is an asset to Statesboro, not just GSU. It [budget cuts] does not need to be here, it does not need to affect our students or our community."

Britt wants the state representatives to see that the proposed budget cuts aren't just going to affect a campus or one solid group of people.

"I want them to realize they are affecting you — not just Georgia Southern, but the girl from Georgia who is the first in her family to go to college."

As GSU senior and rally co-coordinator Corey Briley spoke to students, faculty and staff, he remarked on comments Gov. Sonny Perdue made just a few days prior in which he stated that the educational system is "the crowning jewel" of Georgia.

"It is time for our representatives to start acting like it is," Briley said. "Students, faculty and staff of this university should be angry."

As a senior philosophy major, Briley stands to face the day when his major is no longer a part of the GSU education system.

"Representatives should consider education a highway leading to a promising future, not a toll road that creates revenue. Hacking its funding cannot accomplish this [bright, educated students]," Briley said. "And I say hacking because they are not going to adjust the budget. They are going to hack it to pieces."

"We are not dollar signs. We are teachers, and we are students. This is our home," Briley said. "They are trying to take your home away from you."

The feeling of home definitely rang through as Montes concluded the rally with a Georgia Southern, "Whose House? Our House!"

## Student Fees vs. State Funding

Charles MINSHEW  
editor-in-chief

With the recent announcements that dance crew Jabbawockeez and country music star Tim McGraw will perform in April, questions have been raised about the funding for these events.

But according to administrators, the funding for these events comes from student activities fees, not the state appropriations that the Legislature proposed to be cut.

Director of Student Activities Charlie Hueber said that his office receives only a small portion of student activities fees.

Hueber said "We use the fee to essentially fund just about everything we do for the office which is to provide close to 100 programs every semester for students ranging from coffeehouse events to Friday night movies are sponsored by the student activity fee."

Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Teresa Thompson said that nearly 100 percent of the budgets of departments and organizations such as the Office of Student Activities and SGA come from the student activities fee.

"We will do everything in our power to make sure that student services continue throughout the campus," Thompson said. "When people talk about the concerts, they forget this is students' money. They do get to drive that."

Thompson said the proposed cuts would affect the educational and general funds budget, not the student activities budget.

"That money has to be spent directly for student activities and students get to suggest and vote and guide the process," Thompson said. "If we didn't have the speakers, that money would still go right back into the student services budget to serve students in some shape, form or fashion."

Thompson said that she feels the money from the student activities fee has been spent wisely, and if students want to have their voices heard in the decision making process, they just need to speak up.

"Students have a lot of input," Thompson said. "They can go through the leadership program and offer their input or they can contact me directly."



# Battalion to stay



Courtesy of Georgia Southern

The 6th Brigade Eagle Battalion, the largest Army ROTC program in the Southeast, has been recognized as one of the top programs in the country, but it will be eliminated if the proposed budget cuts prove to be necessary.

## Cutting ROTC program not foreseen

Patrick STOKER  
guest writer

As a result of recent budget cuts, there has been talk of eliminating the Army ROTC program at Georgia Southern.

Lt. Col. George Fredrick, GSU's Battalion Commander, said that he thinks it is all a misunderstanding.

"I can't see a decision to eliminate the program," he said. "Why would you get rid of a program that is consistently one of the best in the country?"

GSU's Eagle Battalion, which is the largest Army ROTC program in the Southeast, was recently named one of the top programs in the nation.

Christian Flathman, the director of marketing and communications at GSU, said that the university does not have any plans to cut the program.

"Georgia Southern's ROTC program was recently recognized as one of the top programs in the country, and a very important part of our institution, and we will continue to offer the program," he said in an e-mail.

Flathman said that if the proposed budget cuts are necessary, then the university would analyze the potential effects it would have on students in the program.

"This is partially due to the potential for consolidation of departments and/or majors at

Georgia Southern University, and partially due to the U.S. Army's expectation of four-year-scholarship recipient cadets to graduate in four years," he said.

However, according to a report by the University System of Georgia, if the proposed budgets cuts turn out to be necessary, the ROTC program would need to be eliminated.

This is because the university would have to eliminate 50 percent of its temporary faculty, making it very difficult for a student to graduate in four years, the report stated.

Bret Danilowicz, dean of the College of Science and Technology, said that the university has a contract with the Army stating that students in the ROTC program must graduate in four years.

"The primary cuts would be in core classes," he said, "making it very difficult for students to graduate in four years," he said.

Danilowicz said that if the program were to be eliminated, it would not be because the school cannot afford it, but because they would no longer be able to guarantee that students can graduate in four years."

GSU has 186 cadets in ROTC today, up from 72 in 2007 when Danilowicz arrived.

Since 1981, more than 321 students from GSU's program have been commissioned as officers in the Army.

Fredrick said, "Each one of them left as a better person and leader."

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# Proposed cuts have impact throughout state

Vincent GARRETT  
guest writer

With the news of proposed budget cuts, students from all over the state of Georgia are reacting in hopes of a quick bounce back for the economy.

Katie Lee, a junior at North Georgia College and State University, said, "I only wonder if there's any other way this budget cut can be rectified besides taking out of our education."

NGCSU's proposal calls for a cut of \$4.18 million of funds. To compensate for these changes, there are plans to eliminate 20 percent of classes, which will affect about 900 students and result in the loss approximately 39 faculty positions.

According to a proposal submitted by Chancellor Errol B. Davis, Georgia Tech would be affected greatly in their research revenue; \$60-100 million is at risk. They would also have to decrease admissions by 20 percent.

Columbus State University will take a \$6 million dollar hit and lose up to 44 positions.

Donterrius Ruff, a senior at CSU, said, "These budget cuts come at a bad time. I'm having a little trouble getting those last few classes I need, which may have me here for another semester."

The school being hit the hardest by this budget cut is the University of Georgia. The budget cuts being proposed are set to relieve the school of \$58 million dollars.

To compensate for this cut in funding, UGA is proposing an end to the school's WUGA radio station, which has won various awards for radio reporting. They will also decrease hours of operation in departments across campus by 30 percent.

Along with these alterations, there will be a loss of some research programs and an employee layoff of over 1,400 employees. The Georgia 4-H program is also at risk.

UGA junior Jaleesa Reed is optimistic about the changes that are to be made.

"I just believe we can recover from this because we're strong and we'll be okay though things are getting tight at this time. You expect this type of thing with a rough economy."

Senior economics major Jerriel Denson said, "It speaks to a larger issue that our priorities as a country are misplaced. The defense is \$633 billion dollars compared to the \$98 billion of the education budget."

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Despite GSU President Brooks Keel's statement that GSU could slip to Division II, athletic director Sam Baker says it's not in the foreseeable future. (Courtesy of Georgia Southern)

## Quick Hits

▲ GSU baseball will host a three-game series against Appalachian State beginning on Friday, March 12.

▲ GSU baseball will face three different teams during Spring Break week. The Eagles will travel to Kennesaw State on Tuesday, March 16 and Clemson on Wednesday, March 17 before visiting Wofford for a three-game series.

▲ GSU Golf finished sixth out of 18 teams during the Cleveland Golf Palmetto Intercollegiate.

▲ GSU Golf will host the Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational at the Forest Heights Country Club beginning Friday, March 19.

# Athletic's response to cuts

## GSU athletic department will face budget reduction issues if and when they become a problem

Brandon RICHARDSON  
guest writer

As a part of a proposal that each institution had to submit because of proposed budget cuts, there was plan for approximately \$1 million in cuts to the Georgia Southern athletics department.

Before getting alarmed, students must realize the budget cut is only a proposal.

The athletics department could lose any amount from nothing, to less than a million dollars, to more than a million dollars.

"There's still a great deal of conversation still to be had within the state system and within the Board of Regents," said Athletic Director Sam Baker. "Perhaps they won't come to fruition."

The proposed \$1 million budget cut is 12 percent of the Georgia Southern athletics department.

Even for the department with a constant revenue stream like athletics, if the cut were to occur, it would be a serious blow to the department.

In an economy as bad as this one, it would take some time to make up the lost funds.

According to Baker, revenue streams from

ticket sales, athletic events, fundraisers and the support from The Eagle Fund may help make up for any cuts that are approved.

"My staff already works very hard to generate the revenue we currently generate," said Baker. "It [a budget cut] would mean an even more concentrated effort."

How would budget cuts affect recruiting? As of now, it still remains to be seen, but a reduction of that size would definitely have a "dramatic impact" on the operations of the department.

"I have nothing concrete as of right now," said Baker. "Until you know a number it's hard to sit down and project anything definite."

In a faculty forum on March 1, GSU President Brooks Keel said that the proposed budget cuts could threaten the status of the university as an NCAA Division I school.

Baker said that the threat to drop out of Division I is not in the foreseeable future.

"We're a Division I program," said Baker. "It is our goal and the goal of everyone in our program to be a strong Division I program. [Dropping out of the SoCon] That's a worst of worst-case scenarios. That would be a Doomsday type [scenario]. I think we're a long way from that right now."

Before the budget cut ideas, GSU's athletics program was working towards moving up to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

According to Baker, the department is leaving that discussion for a future day and is focusing on what the program needs to do now in order to continue being strong at the championship level.

There are many rumors going around about the future of the program, but Baker said that the GSU athletic department will remain concerned with keeping a strong program whether the potential cuts become a reality or not.

"If this potential cut of a million dollars came about, we would work to try and make up those funds as hard as we could," said Baker. "But we also want to stay a Division I playing university. That's going to be our main focus."

Many people have been concerned and asked questions all around campus about what is happening concerning budgets cuts. As for the athletics department, the staff is more focused on keeping their programs strong rather than on the potential budget cuts.

Baker said, "My coaches have asked no more questions than probably people throughout the campus."

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## GSU Spring Break Schedule

### Friday, March 12

- **BASEBALL**

vs. Appalachian State - 7:00 p.m.

- **TRACK & FIELD**

@ The Citadel - All Day

- **WOMEN'S TENNIS**

vs. UNC Greensboro - 2:00 p.m.

### Saturday, March 13

- **BASEBALL**

vs. Appalachian State - 2:30 p.m.

- **SOFTBALL**

@ UNC Greensboro - 1:00 p.m.

@ UNC Greensboro - 3:00 p.m.

- **WOMEN'S TENNIS**

vs. Wofford - 11:00 a.m.

- **MEN'S TENNIS**

@ The Citadel - noon

### Sunday, March 14

- **BASEBALL**

vs. Appalachian State - 1:30 p.m.

- **SOFTBALL**

@ UNC Greensboro - 1:00 p.m.

- **MEN'S TENNIS**

@ College of Charleston - noon

- **WOMEN'S TENNIS**

vs. Bethune-Cookman - noon

### Monday, March 15

No Events Listed

### Tuesday, March 16

- **BASEBALL**

@ Kennesaw State - 6:00 p.m.

- **SOFTBALL**

@ Radford - 3:00 p.m.

@ Radford - 5:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 17

- **BASEBALL**

@ Clemson - 6:30 p.m.

- **SOFTBALL**

@ Georgia Tech - 3:00 p.m.

@ Georgia Tech - 5:00 p.m.

### Thursday, March 18

No Events Listed

### Friday, March 19

- **BASEBALL**

@ Wofford - 7:00 p.m.

- **TRACK & FIELD**

@ Coastal Carolina Meet - All Day

- **GOLF**

E-Z-Go Invitational - All Day

### Saturday, March 20

- **BASEBALL**

@ Wofford - 3:00 p.m.

- **SOFTBALL**

vs. Western Carolina - 1:00 p.m.

vs. Western Carolina - 3:00 p.m.

- **WOMEN'S TENNIS**

vs. Furman - 11:00 a.m.

- **TRACK & FIELD**

@ Coastal Carolina Meet - All Day

- **GOLF**

E-Z-Go Invitational - All Day

### Sunday, March 21

- **BASEBALL**

@ Wofford - 1:00 p.m.

- **SOFTBALL**

vs. Western Carolina - 1:00 p.m.

- **MEN'S TENNIS**

vs. Samford - noon

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## WORD OF THE DAY

**Armageddon**, noun  
[ahr-muh-GED-n]:

a decisive, catastrophic  
event

**etymology:** From the Book  
of Revelation 16:16 where  
Armageddon is mentioned.  
It is the supposed site of  
a final battle between the  
forces of good and evil.  
The word is from Greek  
Harmagedon, from Hebrew  
har megiddo (Mount  
Megiddo).

**usage:** "In the event  
that the US unleashed  
a nuclear Armageddon,  
the radar station would  
have immediately warned  
Moscow."

## Comics



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# Wastin' away again this spring break

As we prepare for some relaxation, our staff members divulge their plans for this year's spring break festivities

## Marshall Hooks

Web editor-in-chief

I'm going to Panama City with my girlfriend Lauren, and amidst the Statesboro budget cuts, we are going to be partying like cash money millionaires!

## Ryan Babula

Features editor

I plan on getting some rest back in Augusta. Savannah might call my name later in the week though, as the luck of the Irish might do some good for this guido juice-head.

## Keith Warburg

Student Media executive editor

I'm going back to Moultrie, Ga, where my fiance and I are going to knock out all of our wedding showers while we're home. That, and spend time with my family.

## Kathy Kennedy

Managing editor

I'm going to lose myself in the panhandle of Florida. I might find my way back to Statesboro by next Saturday.

## Matt Mauney

Reflector managing editor

Showing my age, I'll be spending the week in Orlando, Fla at the Society of Professional Journalist's Conference. I know what you all are thinking, but a brother's gotta get a job!

## Charles Minshew

Editor-in-chief

I plan on going to bed at 11 p.m. and waking up at 10 a.m. everyday. It's called spring break for a reason. No stress, no worries for me.

## Brandilyn Brown

Photo editor

I am going to Miami with my baby boy and his father to visit my aunt, uncle and cousins who I haven't seen in five years. My son will make his first trip to the beach and I'm so excited to see his reaction to the sand that I'm taking three cameras.

## Thom Cunningham

Sports editor

I'm going to the ACC basketball tournament in Greensboro, N.C.

## Kelsey Decker

News editor

I'm going to Savannah for a day with my friends, then to my girlfriend's house. And, of course, catching up on homework and papers, sadly.

## Queata Cassell

ADS assistant manager

I'm going to visit family in Atlanta and Vidalia, practice for the upcoming Miss Black and Gold Pageant and catch up on classwork and papers.



# Getting McGraw

## A look at planning the spring concert

Matt MAUNEY  
special assignments editor

As spring break quickly approaches, students' minds are only concerned with thoughts of the beach, warm weather and a break from classes.

However, soon after spring break 2010 will be the revival of the spring concert at Georgia Southern with country artist Tim McGraw.

This is the first time Eagle Entertainment, the student organization mainly in charge of finding and booking musical acts, has hosted a spring concert since national recording artist Brad Paisley played at Paulson Stadium in 2007.

Although many students expressed frustration in not having a "big show" for the past two years — rock groups O.A.R. and Dashboard Confessional have played shows at the smaller venue of the Recreational Activity Center Band Shell — many of those same students are not aware of the amount of planning it takes to bring in a large production show like a Brad Paisley.

Sriravong "Swerve" Sriratanakoul, the director of Eagle Entertainment explained the complicated process.

"Our goal every year is to get the biggest act we can and give students something to look forward to," Sriratanakoul said. "A lot of students don't realize the amount of work and planning that goes into something like this."

According to Sriratanakoul, the first step in the process is to narrow down possible performers, coordinate schedules and then move to contacting management teams.

To do this, Eagle Entertainment uses Pollstar, a weekly magazine dedicated to covering national and international concert tour information.

"It starts with Pollstar to see what artists are touring and what their sales are," Sriratanakoul said. "Because we give a big discount in ticket prices when it comes to students, we have to come up with a plan to make our money back by getting the biggest artist possible and the most ticket sales."

For a university like GSU with a diverse student body, this is no easy decision.

"When deciding on an act, we try to look at what's popular now and what the majority of students listen to. We also try to cater to the region and pick an act that we feel will draw the biggest crowd."

Once the list is compiled, Sriratanakoul

begins to contact the various agencies and see if routing schedules and pricing matches up.

"That's normally one of the easier things to negotiate," he said.

Because show pricing fluctuates depending on artists, there is no set ticket price before the pricing portion of the contracts is settled.

"Our goal is to at least break even or come close to breaking even, so we create spreadsheets and put in anticipated ticket sales and try to figure out what prices to set in order to obtain our goal," Sriratanakoul said.

The funds for the spring concert comes from a combination of student activity fees and funds provided by the office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, in addition to money provided by sponsors of the concert.

Once an artist is decided upon and dates and price are cleared, several other phases begin.

The one that is the most student-centered of these processes is the marketing phase.

Katie Stanbek, a Programming Board member with Eagle Entertainment, is in charge of coordinating marketing for this year's concert.

In an ideal situation, the artist chosen to perform at GSU will include Paulson Stadium — the venue of the show — as part of their national tour. However, this year the spring concert performer will be playing at Paulson independent of his nationwide tour.

"It's an ideal situation because most of those tours are a package deal. With Brad Paisley, we got Taylor Swift, Kelly Pickler and Jack Ingram. Usually with a tour they carry their own production, and this year, without a tour, we have to go to a third-party production company."

Having to go through a third-party production company provides further complications.

The concert venue management, in this case Paulson Stadium facility managers, has to coordinate with both the production company and the artist on what type of stage, lighting and backstage accommodations will be available and be the most efficient for all parties involved.

Melissa Aronson, a representative with Babco Entertainment LLC, was brought on board to help coordinate the event and get all involved parties on the same page.

Aronson said, "This should be a great show and something students will enjoy. It is a big production but I feel confident that the show will go off without a hitch."

# SPRING BREAK Photo Contest 2010



Last Year's Winner

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