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The George-Anne

Student Media

8-30-2016

The George-Anne

Georgia Southern University

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GA
THE GEORGE-ANNE

Game Week
Eagles prepare to
make an impact
on the gridiron

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© TAHIR DAUDIER

Familiar Cuisine

Former 441 owner hired
at hotel restaurant

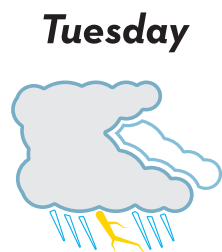
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Louisiana
Floods

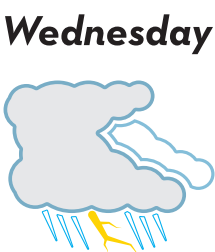


President Hebert offers
comforting words to victims

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High: 91°
Low: 72°



High: 90°
Low: 72°



High: 91°
Low: 72°

Weather Bar

In a change of pace, we're looking at thunderstorms for the greater part of this week. Make sure you don't leave home without an umbrella.

WORRY-FREE WEDNESDAYS

Need a place to blow off some steam? Come join us for some stress free activities!

August 31st
Sept. 28th
Oct. 26th
Nov. 30th

UNIVERSITY WELLNESS PROGRAM
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

RUSSELL UNION COMMONS

11AM - 1PM

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH



We asked Georgia Southern students about their worst roommate stories. If you would like to share your roommate horror story, email us at thecircle@georgiasouthern.edu for a chance for an interview.

RAPPER YOUNG DRO

ARRESTED ON CAMPUS

BY ERIN MCGUINNESS
The George-Anne staff

Rapper Young Dro was arrested following the Statesboro Summer Jam at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center on Saturday after authorities reported smelling marijuana.

37-year-old D'Juan Montrel Hart, known by his stage name "Young Dro," is a multi-platinum recording artist best known for his hit single "Shoulder Lean."

Young Dro was charged with carrying a weapon in a school safety zone, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of marijuana under an ounce. According to Johnathan McColiar, promoter of the event, the concert police surrounded the rapper's car, claiming they smelled marijuana, which gave authorities probable cause to search the vehicle.

Many Georgia Southern students were unaware that Young Dro was coming to campus, but after hearing what happened, they expressed their safety concerns.

"We probably shouldn't have had a felon on our campus around thousands

of students with a gun," Will Willder, freshman chemistry major, said.

McColiar, a private citizen who promoted the event, reports that they were aware of the rapper's criminal history, but says he believes in second chances. McColiar said that the event went great, and there were no problems or reported issues as far as he knows.

"I don't like that he was able to bring a gun on campus, and I don't feel safe because it's dangerous," Allyssa Knowles, sophomore Spanish major, said.

Some students feel that events that end like this have actually hurt the image of the university.

"Is this really beneficial to our college experience? I know it's entertaining, but our lasting image afterwards is more negative than positive, and that really affects Georgia Southern's reputation," Brett Franqui, sophomore mechanical engineering major, said.

Young Dro made his first court appearance on Monday where he was denied bail by a judge.

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DEVIN CONWAY

Conway is a junior journalism major from Manchester, New Hampshire.

Defining Art

A work of art can be defined as any creative project that is stimulating, thought-provoking and aesthetically pleasing.

In a day-and-age dominated by a limitless exposure to convenient forms of entertainment, it has become increasingly difficult to find albums, novels and films that actually have artistic value, and even harder to get people to appreciate them.

Great works of art are typically inspirational and insightful, but they can also be therapeutic. They offer unique and relatable perspectives that can allow us to transcend our own problems in the solidarity of personal connection.

Garbage In, Garbage Out

I’ve heard plenty of people say that taste is entirely subjective and that people should be left alone to watch what they want to watch, read what they want to read and listen to what they wish to listen to as long as they are content with it.

I can completely understand the first argument that is being made, but the subjectivity in taste should amount to nothing more than a preference for The Rolling Stones to The Beatles or F. Scott Fitzgerald to Ernest Hemingway.

What this subjectivity shouldn’t allow for is the legitimization of arguments that say Lil Yachty is a more important hip-hop artist than Tupac Shakur.

It’s not that anyone is necessarily making that

argument, but I feel as if our society now prefers meaningless obscenity to imaginative coherence, which is what the former and latter musical artists have to offer, respectively.

An Acquired Taste

The problem with the contemporary arts and entertainment industries is that far too often we look to be entertained in a sort of instantly gratifying way, and whether the corporatization of these industries has slowly desensitized us to mass-produced garbage or they are simply working to meet an increasing demand for it, there is no doubt that our standards have dropped significantly.

Good taste is something you have to develop, and something that goes away if you don’t work at it.

If most of your reading time is spent perusing cheap romantic paperbacks or BuzzFeed articles, you won’t be able to spot a novel with artistic value even if it’s ranked at the top of a list of 15 Books You Absolutely Have To Read Before You Graduate College.

Taste is also a completely relative phenomenon; that is to say one must be subjected to a number of creative works before they can properly judge them.

The Proper Task of Life

While I will agree that we are certainly entitled to a freedom of choice, I believe that we have a responsibility to ourselves and to our fellow man to immerse ourselves in thought-provoking works, to occasionally lose ourselves in the fictional reality of a well-written novel, to silently reflect upon our own experiences, desires and inhibitions as we watch a beautifully-crafted directorial vision unfold on our television screens and to appreciate the songs that put into words those things we’ve always felt but never been able to properly articulate until someone else did it for us.

“

If most of your reading time is spent perusing cheap romantic paperbacks or BuzzFeed articles, you won’t be able to spot a novel with artistic value even if it’s ranked at the top of a list of ‘15 Books You Absolutely Have To Read Before You Graduate College.”

15 Books You Absolutely Have To Read Before You Graduate College

1. “1984” by George Orwell
2. “Into the Wild” by Jon Krakaver
3. “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury
4. “The Stranger” by Albert Cumus
5. “Infinite Jest” by David Foster Wallace
6. “The Sun Also Rises” by Ernest Hemingway
7. “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas” by Hunter S. Thompson
8. “The Catcher in the Rye” by J. D. Salinger
9. “The Picture of Dorian Grey” by Oscar Wilde
10. “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” by James Joyce
11. “Breakfast of Champions” by Kurt Vonnegut
12. “One Flew Over the Cuchoo’s Nest” by Ken Kasey
13. “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald
14. “On the Road” by Jach Kerovac
15. “Walden” by Henry David Thoreau

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County.

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.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478.0566. For questions e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, rate cards, or sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director. 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.

STUDENTS BEWARE: The George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when replying to ads-- particularly those that require personal information. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad.

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The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, typed, and sent via email in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) format to letters@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year and hometown. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions, or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.

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GA
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THE GEORGE-ANNE

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President Hebert discusses his thoughts on Louisiana flooding

BY TAISHA WHITE
The George-Anne staff

President Jaimie Hebert, a native of Abbeville, Louisiana, gave an emotional yet hopeful response to the Louisiana flooding in a recent interview with The George Anne. Dubbed the worst US disaster since 2012's Hurricane Sandy by many relief efforts, including the Red Cross, the Louisiana floods have left thousands of families without their personal items and homes along with a death toll of 13.

Shock and disbelief

Hebert's initial reaction regarding the flooding was short and simple, but spoke volumes and expressed much of what most of the world is thinking.

"Here we go again," Hebert said. "It's mind boggling. There are disasters just about everyday in the United States. There are wildfires in California and people's homes are being flooded in Louisiana and you just wish that you could somehow balance all of that and we just can't. We live in nature and these are the unfortunate disasters that happen."

Hebert and his family are no strangers to natural disasters in the South. Hebert's mother was also caught in a flood in 1944. The then 14-year-old and her family were displaced for a three-week period. Hebert was also caught in Hurricane Ike, the tropical cyclone that hit South East Texas back in 2008. Hebert, who was living in Texas at the time, was left without power for three weeks.

“I want to be there. I want to be helping my family, but you can't always be there.”

PRESIDENT HEBERT

Family woes

Hebert's immediate family, including his siblings, have each been affected by the floods, forcing them to evacuate their homes. Hebert, who has helped his family during this tragic time, became emotional as he expressed how difficult it is not being able to be right beside his family.

"It's hard. It's always hard. I want to be there. I want to be helping my family, but you can't always be there and that's one of the unfortunate things about living far from family," Hebert said.

Media attention

Although most of the mainstream news coverage has been geared towards the Olympics and this year's Presidential election, Hebert was grateful others are speaking on the floods.

"I was really surprised how much media was out there about the floods in Louisiana. That says a lot about our humanity," Hebert said. "People have covered this with a lot of compassion. I was astounded the other day when I walked in and saw the headline in the Statesboro Herald was about the floods in Louisiana. It was really touching. I snapped a picture and sent it to my brother and said, 'See they care about y'all.' He sent a smile back."

Beyond the floods

Though the devastation of the floods has left Hebert in a concerned state, he is confident

that the state of Louisiana will bounce back.

"They're strong people and they are going to survive. I feel for them because I know what that struggle is like. They are good people and they are going to survive and they will prosper again," Hebert said.

In the end, Hebert sends a positive yet direct message to those in desperate search for help.

Hebert said, "If you need, ask. Now is not the time to be humble. Find the courage to move on."

For more information on how to get involved in helping out those impacted by the Louisiana floods, please visit www.redcross.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COBB LEBOUF

President Hebert wishes he was near his family. Hebert's brother, along with the rest of his family, have experienced the Louisiana flooding first hand.

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New Lanier Drive warehouse to expand South campus



© XXAVIER ROBERTSON

The Lanier Drive warehouse is the first building on GS' South campus. Many other departments will be housed here in the near future.

BY BAILEY ADCOCK
The George-Anne staff

Lanier Drive is now home to a brand new warehouse, which has been officially designated as a part of the South Campus Expansion. The warehouse will be home to various departments, offices, as well as a storage expansion for the museum's Project SENSE (Science Education Network for the South East), an outreach program designed for local teaching professionals

who cater to children in pre-K through eighth grade.

Some of the museum's interesting features will include a new-to-them cotton gin from the 1850s and a turpentine wagon from the 1920s according to Brent Tharp, Ph.D., museum director.

The Georgia Southern Museum has been part of campus since 1980 when it was founded by Charles Austin, the vice president for academic affairs at the time.

The museum has since been

the home of many archaeological finds and donated artifacts and will provide sufficient space for the university's archaeology program.

"Archaeology is important because it shows us what the past was. It also helps illustrate societies that weren't necessarily recorded in writing," Lindsey Ivy, junior anthropology major, said.

The new warehouse will also provide space for the aspects of archaeology that come after the actual digging up of artifacts.

"It's digging up cool things and more often, boring, mundane objects, but it is also the interpretation of the objects and the context in which they are found that have the most meaning," Morgan Henderson, junior anthropology major, said.

The expansion of the museum and archaeological research space will be beneficial towards GS's awareness of history.

"I think that having more access to the archaeology archives and resources would make my experience and

education in the intricacies of archaeological digs and sites more in depth. I can come out of graduation with the best knowledge of archaeology," Henderson said.

University's Property Control, Archives and Record Center, Purchasing Department, Communication Arts Department's costume shop and Central Receiving will also be housed in the new warehouse.

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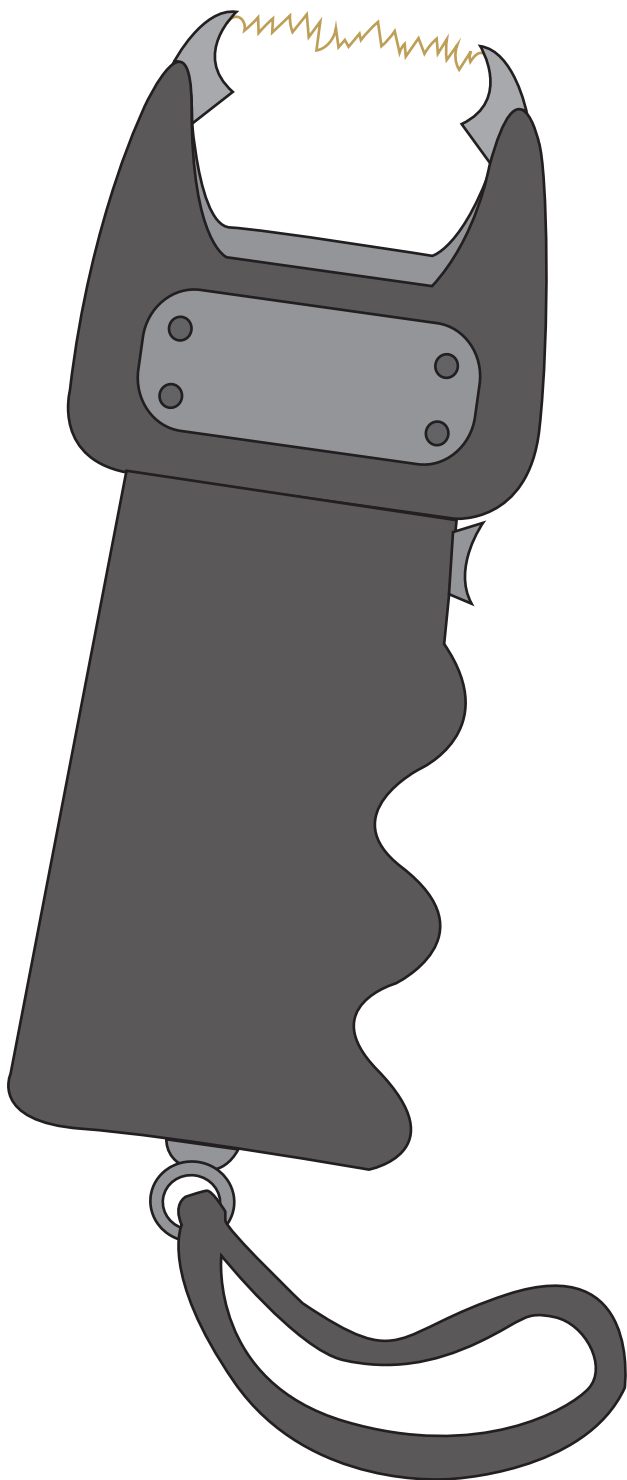
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© XXAVIER ROBERTSON

The Communication Arts Department's costume shop is now located in the new warehouse.

Stun guns and tasers allowed on Georgia college campuses



BY DANYELLE GAINES
The George-Anne staff

A new law passed that allows students and employees 18 and older to carry stun guns and tasers on Georgia public college campuses.

House Bill 792 was proposed by House representative Buzz Brockway as an alternative to the Campus Carry bill that would have allowed guns on college campuses. Governor Nathan Deal vetoed the Campus Carry bill in March.

According to Maura Copeland, associate vice president for legal affairs, electroshock devices have been removed from the definition of prohibited weapons on college campuses.

“This puts electroshock devices on the same legal footing as baseball bats or fists. These items are not per se illegal to possess on campus. However, they may not be used to inflict harm on someone else except in defense of self or others,” Copeland said in an email.

Electroshock devices may only be used in defense of self or others, and they can be carried openly or concealed. No license or permit is necessary to carry an electroshock device.

According to Laura McCullough, campus Chief of Police, Georgia Southern University experiences few situations where a stun gun is needed for self-defense.

“Georgia Southern has a very low crime rate. Most of the crime we see on campus is theft of property, which is usually left unattended by the owner. There are very few crimes against persons on our campus, where a weapon, such as a stun gun, is needed for protection,” McCullough said.

Jacquelyn Siddons, senior public relations major, feels that stun guns are a better alternative to guns being allowed on campuses.

“I feel like carrying guns on a college campus is a little extreme and that would be ridiculous if they really allowed that to happen.

Stun guns are a reasonable alternative,” Siddons said.

Mook Eleby, senior computer science major, feels stun guns are very necessary on campus.

“I believe it’s necessary to make students feel safer on college campuses. Anything can happen, and I think students should be able to protect themselves,” Eleby said.

Colleges statewide have begun conducting classes to educate students on the new law and how to properly use a stun gun. However, GS does not have plans to conduct such classes.

“At this time, we do not plan on conducting any educational or instructional classes for the use of stun guns. Commercial stun guns are made to be simple and easy to use by the owner,” McCullough said.

Electroshock devices are available for purchase at local businesses, gun stores and large retail stores.

SHOOTING SPORTS EDUCATION CENTER

TRY ARCHERY NIGHT

Event Date:
Tuesday, September 6



EXPLORE ARCHERY COLLEGIATE

Registration Deadline:
Tuesday, September 6



BOWLING PIN SHOOT

Event Begins:
Monday, September 12



CONCEALED CARRY

Event Date:
Saturday, September 17



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“I feel like carrying guns on a college campus is a little extreme and that would be ridiculous if they really allowed that to happen. Stun guns are a reasonable alternative.”

JACQUELYN SIDDONS
Senior public relations major

New chef brings new *possibilities*



MICK MILLER

Seni Alabi-Isama went to GS. Though Alabi-Isama is a chef, he actually earned his bachelor's degree in English and history.



MICK MILLER

Emma's Restaurant and Lounge is located inside the Holiday Inn hotel at 455 Commerce Dr. in Statesboro.

BY ARAYA JACKSON and JULIA FECHTER
The George-Anne staff

Statesboro is very accustomed to losing local restaurants and bars. Though the recent closing of a highly-rated town favorite, 441 Public Kitchen and Bar, has many uneasy, you can now find its owner and his classic dishes elsewhere.

Located under the Holiday Inn hotel in Statesboro is a hidden little establishment called Emma's Restaurant and Lounge.

The restaurant has been there for roughly eight years now, and has seen many chefs come and go. After Emma's lost its opening

chef, many have failed trying to fill those vacated shoes, until now.

Chef Seni Alabi-Isama is now the head chef for Emma's. Alabi-Isama previously owned 441, until it closed on July 14.

"It's just business. Sometimes, things aren't the way you believe them to be, and things are out of your hands," Alabi-Isama said.

Emma's manager, Jasmine Leach, is enthusiastic about Alabi-Isama working with her and her colleagues.

"He has a huge following. He's

really talented and he brings a lot to the table," Leach said.

Alabi-Isama was born in Nigeria, and has lived in London, New York, Houston, Miami and Atlanta.

He met his wife in high school in Atlanta, and they attended Georgia Southern University together, where he majored in English and history. He's been in Bulloch County for about 13 years now.

Alabi-Isama owned South and Vine Public House, and after it caught fire and burned down in August 2014, started 441 Public Kitchen and Bar.

He prides himself and his business on consistent and refreshing dishes and plans on bringing similar service and atmosphere of 441 over to Emma's.

When it comes to satisfying his customers, the chef doesn't necessarily focus on a set style, besides hand-making everything the kitchen possibly can. Whether it is a stock, dressing, condiment, or even muffins and bread, it's the kitchen's own recipe.

When switching over to the bar, he promises the same amount of special care that's given into the food.

"We treat our bar the same way we do

our kitchen. It's a pre-prohibition style, with no pre-made mixers, artificial, high-fructose colored things, its fresh juices, fruit, and nonstandard distilled products, some you've probably never heard of," Alabi-Isama said.

Alabi-Isama shops locally and organically and only ships over those special products, like aged cheddar from Vermont. Though 'shop local, buy local, eat local' is a popular and catchy term, Alabi-Isama says he actually goes that extra mile to make sure his kitchen and lifestyle reflect that.

"If your neighbor has it, why not buy it? It doesn't make sense to me if someone's growing produce down the street, then I should buy produce from California," Alabi-Isama said.

The chef has a similar opinion about attending local restaurants.

"Support your local businesses, your downtown businesses. The only voice you have is your dollar. Where you spend it tells people what you value," Alabi-Isama said.

Some of Alabi-Isama's dishes and drinks have received high applause, like the 2016 Foodie Award for best Shrimp and Grits and recognition on cocktails from Jack Rudy Cocktail Co.

With all of this to bring to his new current home, Alabi-Isama is looking forward to working with Emma's and its small, intimate feel.

Alabi-Isama said, "Cooking, feeding people, being a part of celebrations and milestones, that's probably the best part about this. You miss a lot of your own family gatherings, but you get to share those with others."

upb

Welcome TO THE EAGLE NATION

SEPTEMBER 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

THUR. SEPTEMBER 8

UNplugged: Into the Jungle

6:30 P.M. @ Williams Center Multipurpose Room

FRI. SEPTEMBER 16

FFW, Outdoor Movie: Finding Dory

9 P.M. @ Sweetheart Circle
(main location Russell Union Theater | 8:30 P.M.)

FRI. SEPTEMBER 2

Legend of Tarzan

6 & 8 P.M. @ Russell Union Theater

FRI. SEPTEMBER 16

Fall Family Weekend: Block Party

6 P.M. @ In front of the University Bookstore

FRI. SEPTEMBER 30

Dive-In Movie: Ghostbusters

9:30 P.M. @ RAC Aquatics Center
Open to GSU students only

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For more information on accommodations related to access, please contact UPB at: upb@GeorgiaSouthern.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.

Page designed by Stevey Mann

To contact the features editor, email gaartsandent@georgiasouthern.edu



TAHIR DAUDIER

Formula racing is a motorsport where drivers focus more on attaining the fastest speed possible. Eagle Motorsports has participated in formula races such as the FSAE Michigan 2016 race.

BY THOMAS BARSZCZ
The George-Anne staff

Our community here at Georgia Southern is full of great minds and innovators. With a variety of clubs and organizations in many different fields, one can find an outlet to express creative and intuitive ideas in the college community and even in the working world.

One such outlet here is Eagle Motorsports. Eagle Motorsports is a club run by GS undergraduate and graduate engineer students who dedicate several hours of their time throughout the year to design and build vehicles in their workshop here on campus. After completion, they

then put their creations to the test by presenting and racing in competitions all over the U.S.

Since its existence, the Eagle Motorsports club has always been “the underdogs in competitions” according to the club president Garrett Howze. But due to new changes in the club’s establishment, this year looks more promising.

The Eagle Motorsports is officially associated with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). SAE aides groups such as the Eagle Motorsports club by providing access to understanding the latest in automotive technologies and teaching groups how

to apply these technologies and even enhance them.

“They are all about furthering technology in the automotive industry,” Howze said.

Eagle Motorsports’ future is also promising due to its membership is at the highest it’s ever been. With a total of almost thirty members, the team is looking forward to being great this year.

“We can design our vehicles based off of the changing technology in the [automotive] industry. This year, we’re trying to really up our game,” Howze said.

The club is always looking for

dedicated members to join their innovative team. The club as a whole is separated by two teams: the formula team and the Baja team. The formula team designs, builds and races vehicles for a track and the Baja team does the same but for off-road competitions.

Although separated into two teams, the club as a whole is like a family according to Haden Smith, the formula team captain.

Smith said, “We are like a brotherhood and sisterhood of people. Everyone around here becomes your family.”



TAHIR DAUDIER

Eagle Motorsports was the first collegiate team to compete in the Baja 1000. The Baja 1000 is the world’s second largest off-road race.

CHANGES COMING TO THE SUN BELT

BY ROBERT GEORGE
The George-Anne staff

There is a pair of major changes coming to the Sun Belt Conference over the next few years as it continues to develop as a perennial power in the national athletic landscape.

COASTAL CAROLINA JOINS THE SUN BELT

The most immediate change is the addition of Coastal Carolina University (CCU) to all sports this fall, with the exception of football. The Chanticleers officially made the move on July 1, one day after their baseball team won the College World Series (CWS), and is now the 12th member of the Sun Belt.

The CCU football program will undergo a transition equivalent to what Georgia Southern did in the 2013 and 2014 seasons. They will compete in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) one more season before playing a full Sun Belt schedule in the 2017-2018 season. They won't be eligible to play in the postseason, however, they'll be able to compete for a bowl berth after that season. The program has been solid of late, with a 48-17 record in the last five seasons.

The move will give the Sun Belt 10 football-

playing members following the 2017 season once New Mexico State and Idaho depart. The Sun Belt is unlikely to add any more football-playing teams anytime soon.

"Ten is the right number (of football teams) for the Sun Belt," Karl Benson, Sun Belt Commissioner, said. "It now allows us to shrink our boundaries and maximize the geography."

The Chanticleers' baseball team captured the school's first national championship in any sport on June 30, when they defeated Arizona University in the CWS. CCU competes in 16 collegiate sports, including women's lacrosse and beach volleyball.

The Chanticleers have traditionally been successful in baseball, women's golf, softball, men's and women's tennis, volleyball and women's soccer. They're leaving the Big South Conference, where they have been a member since 1983.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME COMING TO FOOTBALL



The Sun Belt will hold its inaugural Conference Championship game in the 2018 season. It is the final FBS conference to add a championship game to its schedule.

While factors like game location and the method of choosing the participants have yet to be determined, the addition of the game is a logical one, according to Benson.

"When the NCAA Division I Council passed new rules on championship games, we knew our 10-team lineup for 2018 was going to be ready to move forward with a vote," Benson said in a statement.

Holding a championship game could help the conference get a team to the College Football Playoff. While it might take an undefeated team to crack the top four, having a single,

undisputed champion may be enough to get that team into the coveted playoff, or into a prestigious New Year's Day bowl game.

Benson said in a statement, "This championship will be a first-class experience – and we look forward to it being a launching-pad for a team to reach the College Football Playoff's 'New Year's Six' bowl games."



GET TO KNOW CCU

DATE ESTABLISHED: 1954

CITY: CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA

STUDENT POPULATION: 10,000

MASCOT: CHANTICLEERS (A FIERCE ROOSTER)

NOTABLE ALUMNI: MICHAEL KELLY (ACTOR ON HOUSE OF CARDS), JOSH NORMAN (CB FOR THE REDSKINS), DUSTIN JOHNSON (PRO GOLFER) AND AMBER CAMPBELL (OLYMPIC HAMMER THROWER)

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THE PERFECT STORM

SENIOR PLAYERS TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS SEASON

BY ROBERT GEORGE
The George-Anne staff

No sports team is defined by the talent or shortcomings of just one player, and that’s especially true in football. It takes 11 guys working together to accomplish their goal. Many Georgia Southern players have defined the goal for this season: winning the Sun Belt. While it will take everybody on the roster to complete that goal, these players will have a big hand in making that happen.



12

BJ
JOHNSON III

POSITION: WIDE RECEIVER

CLASS: SENIOR

HEIGHT: 6'1"

WEIGHT: 212

MAJOR: SPORTS MANAGEMENT
[GRADUATED]

When Tyson Summers was introduced as head coach, one of the first things he said regarding the offense was that the Eagles needed to throw the ball with better efficiency. With two returning quarterbacks and Johnson leading the receiving corps, there’s a chance the Eagles will do just that in year one of the Summers era.

Johnson was able to put up decent numbers (15 catches, a team-high 249 yards) despite missing four games with a broken clavicle that he injured midway through the last season. Unsurprisingly, he is one of the players most excited about the expanded passing game.

“Now we got more freedom to do what we want. Our quarterbacks can look out there and if they see something, they can check it (the play) and come out to us,” Johnson said.

Johnson is a candidate for a big season if he can stay healthy. He’s had a good preseason, and was one of the guys to score in the spring game with a nifty 18-yard touchdown reception from Favian Upshaw. He’ll be one of the first options whenever the Eagles drop back to pass, and is looking to make a big contribution in his final year.



36

MATT
BREIDA

POSITION: RUNNING BACK

CLASS: SENIOR

HEIGHT: 5'11"

WEIGHT: 190



MAJOR: ACCOUNTING

Everybody knows about the star back out of GS now. Four years ago, however, when Breida was just a two-star recruit out of Nature Coast Technical, most people overlooked him. He was either too small or not tough enough to run against Division 1 defenses.

“I knew some of the guys that got big offers from Florida and Florida State and I knew that I was just as good as or better than those guys.

I looked at it as motivation to go to college, play Division 1 football and show all those people wrong who should have offered me and recruited me,” Breida said.

Now, in his final season in a GS uniform, other programs know what they missed out on. He’s on the Doak Walker, Lombardi and Maxwell Watch Lists along with a slew of Preseason All Sun Belt lists. He’s rushed for more than 3000 yards and 34 touchdowns in his career and is primed to put together another huge season running the ball in a stacked offense full of veterans and talent.



50

ANDY
KWON

POSITION: CENTER

CLASS: SENIOR

HEIGHT: 6'2"

WEIGHT: 300

MAJOR: SPORT MANAGEMENT

Offensive linemen rarely make the highlight films and headlines after a big win, but it’s past time the GS big boys got some recognition. The Eagles have had either the most or second-most rushing yards in the FBS in the last two seasons, and Kwon is one of the big reasons why.

Although he will start at center for just the second season, he played in both of his first two years as well. Last year, he was the anchor to one of the best run blocking units in the nation. He was placed in the Rimington Watch List, which is given annually to the nation’s best center.

Kwon, however, was quick to deflect praise to his teammates when asked about the nomination.

“It’s pretty cool that I was nominated for that,” Kwon said. “But to be honest with you I’m just trying to win games. I think the reason I got that is because I have great teammates.”

The line has a big task this season, as they’ll have to go up against some nasty defensive fronts in Appalachian State, Arkansas State and Ole Miss. But with Kwon and others up front, the running backs should have plenty of room to run again this season.

CHECK BACK ON
THURSDAY FOR
PLAYERS TO WATCH ON
THE DEFENSIVE SIDE

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