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The George-Anne

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## The George-Anne

Georgia Southern University

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**GA**  
THE GEORGE-ANNE

# AURA FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

An inside look at a  
rock-and-roll music  
festival  
**Pages 8-9**

## Vision 20/20

SGA plans to target  
campus concerns

**Page 5**

## OFF THE BAT

Eagles win high scoring  
opening series

**Page 12**



Tuesday



High: 75°

Low: 59°

20 percent chance of rain

Wednesday



High: 73°

Low: 58°

20 percent chance of rain

Thursday



High: 80°

Low: 56°

10 percent chance of rain

# Weather Bar

Looks like we'll be experiencing mostly warm weather for the next few days. The high and low temperatures vary greatly so layers may be crucial.

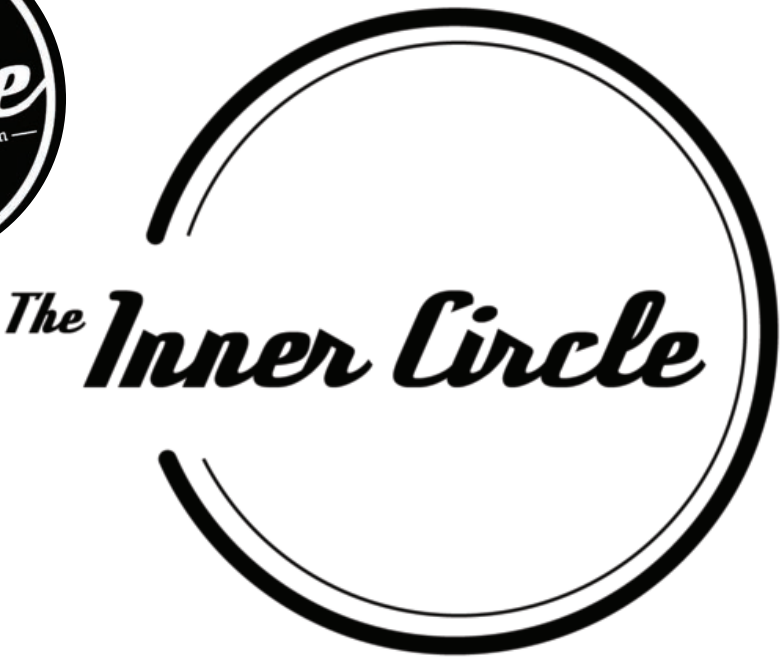


PHOTO COURTESY OF THECIRCLEGSU.COM

The Inner Circle digs into Showtime's famed and interesting show, Shameless!

<http://thecirclegsu.com/inner-circle-shameless/>

# INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION HOURS BRING DIVERSITY

BY CASEY ROHLEN  
The Reflector staff

Every Friday of each semester, Georgia Southern students from all around the world gather for a light lunch and refreshments on the school's campus. Backed by the Office of International Programs and Services, International Conversation Hours are sponsored by various businesses, restaurants, churches, civic organizations and on-campus departments. The light-hearted atmosphere sees friends both old and new getting the opportunity to relax, take a break from their studies, and immerse themselves in the cultures of their peers regardless of the hardships their countries may be facing.

When sophomore film production major Michelle Pescina came to Georgia Southern to escape the worsening conditions in her home country of Venezuela she didn't even know the English language. Through working with the university and the Office of International Programs and Services the adjustment period became easier. She was eventually able to move into a role as an International Ambassador for the school.

Pescina says the weekly events are important for her because it allows for people to become more diverse and open-minded to the other cultures on campus.

Host Angie Threatte knows the importance providing southern hospitality to students from other cultures. Threatte, who has worked at Georgia Southern for 26 years, helps organize and host all the programs and events for international students. When the long-standing event on the GS campus known as International Coffee Hour fell under her control some years ago, she made adjustments until the event became what it is today.

Opening the eyes of someone from a rural area like Statesboro by meeting and starting a dialogue with an international student can change their world view. That's why students like Jared Wody, a junior logistics and supply chain management major from Statesboro, come to the event every Friday they can.

Junior civil engineering major Aaron Towns also shared Wody's sentiment of coming to grow out of personal life circles.

Read More at [Reflectorgsu.com](http://Reflectorgsu.com)

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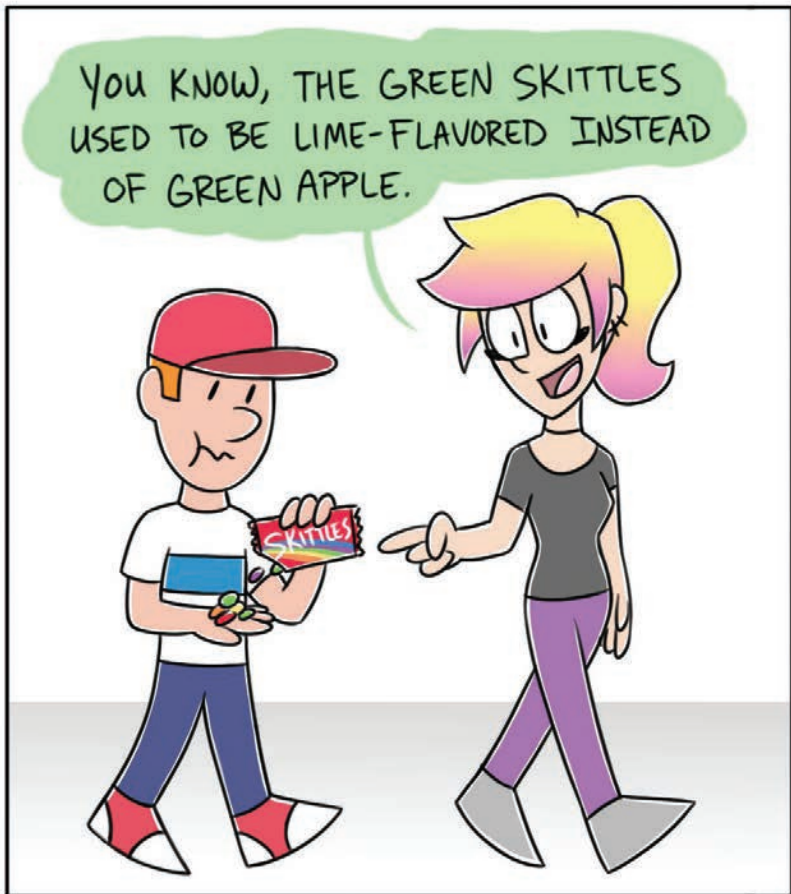
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# CORRECTION

In the Feb. 16 issue, the quote "People normally put off getting frames until the week before finals or even during finals week, but prices will go up so its better to get them sooner than later." was misattributed in the article titled "Cost of graduation adds up for Georgia Southern students". The George-Anne regrets this error.





## 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](mailto:gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu).

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**CORRECTIONS:** Contact the editor at [gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu) for corrections and errors.

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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](mailto: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.*

# What Does it Mean to Be Human?

## TREVOR WRIGHT

Wright is a sophomore English major and philosophy minor from Augusta. This is a guest column.

I think most people go through a lonely time in their life, usually during adolescence. Think back on how miserable that time was, when it seemed as if the only person willing to pick up the phone for you was mom or dad. A 72 year study conducted by Harvard University concluded with the evidence that quality interactions with other people can be the biggest factor in having a more fulfilling life- not fame, wealth or social status like our generation tends to think.

If encounters with other people is

the key to happiness, then why do we avoid each other. You see it all the time on-campus, usually in the form of everyone having headphones in or burying their faces in a smartphone. We don't even wave, smile or greet each other anymore. We really ought to go back to our roots, humans were always meant to be social creatures.

In his book, "Mindwise," Nicholas Epley documents an experiment he did aboard a New York subway. In this experiment he asked a group of commuters what would be the least desirable activity whilst sitting on the subway: (1. Sitting alone, doing nothing, 2. Perusing a book or phone, 3. Chatting with a stranger). The vast majority of people chose number 3, chatting with a stranger would be the most unpleasant occurrence.

Using the same group of commuters, Epley divided them up randomly into three groups, with each group partaking in one of the three options. Interestingly enough, the group that was chosen to chat with a stranger reported having the MOST pleasant time. While the group that sat alone reported having the worst. This is directly paradoxical to what the commuters hypothesized. People are simply afraid of the same human connection that we desire and crave the most.

I usually ride my bike to and from campus but last Friday I decided to put this to the test. I rode the bus for fun, in hopes to engage anyone in a conversation (preferably a striking female). I boarded the bus at Forrest Drive right around 11 a.m. Most of the seats were taken so I decided I would stand. I'd like to think of myself as more gregarious than most so striking up a conversation was no problem.

I picked out the closest gentleman that wasn't wearing earphones and chatted him up. I asked the usual questions, name, major, life plans. At first this gentleman was unnerved, a little conscientious perhaps, but as I received his answers with a smile and positive affirmations, he quickly reciprocated my enthusiasm and vibrancy. Pretty soon a few others butted in, they started voicing their names and personas.

While this tipping point happened, I was paying attention to some of the others, the ones still not conversing. Headphones were coming out of ears, heads were perking up. They may not have spoken up, but they sure seemed like they wanted to. I don't doubt that had I stood in silence (you know, what the "normal" people do), the bus trip would have been the same bleak experience that it always has been.



# TITLE IV AID

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY ALANA TINSLEY, TANDRA SMITH  
AND TAISHA WHITE  
The George-Anne staff

Title IV, otherwise known as financial aid, can often be a tricky road to traverse, and the path here at Georgia Southern is no exception. Recently, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia took the time to clarify how students in so-called “pre-programs” could or could not qualify and continue to receive financial aid.

### THE RUNDOWN

According to an email from the Board of Regents, under Title IV, students must be in an approved degree program which then leads to a certificate, associate or bachelor degree, in order to receive financial aid funding. The students must first check-in with their desired graduate school’s program and see what prerequisites are needed in order for them to be accepted into the program. Title IV’s funding is made available to anybody in an approved degree program, also students enrolled in a ‘pre-program’ (including pre-majors) and may be considered a regular student enrolled in an eligible

program, provided the appropriate academic requirements are met. Popular pre-programs include pre-nursing, pre-law and pre-health. “Many of these health professional schools require students to have a bachelor’s degree prior to matriculation,” Malerie Payne, assistant director of Pre-Health Professional Programs, said. Payne works alongside graduating GS students to help prepare them for the health professional programs they want to work toward. Students are not required to meet with Payne, or be involved in the programming GS offers; however, students may not have the ability to find the same information or resources that is offered through meetings and programming with Payne. Payne uses pre-health as an example to help further explain the process. “For students preparing to apply to any health professional school, I challenge them to take some time to consider other interests and career possibilities,” Payne said. Payne then explained that health professional programs are very competitive and the chances of students actually making it through the full process of acceptance to matriculation is much lower than

what many students hope.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

For those students that do not receive acceptances from programs during their first application cycle, there are several options they can pursue and applying during more

Title IV has on their federal aid funding. “[Title IV] does sort of sway my opinion towards pursuing my masters at this point, mainly because I begin applying for higher education programs this summer and have just recently been made aware of the changes,” Rudijah Wordlaw, senior public health major, said. Tracey Mingo, director of financial

“ [Title IV] does sort of sway my opinion towards pursuing my masters at this point, mainly because I begin applying for higher education programs this summer and have just recently been made aware of the changes.”

RUDIJA H WORDLAW  
Senior public health major

UPB PRESENTS

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than one application cycle is actually more common than students think. One option is to take a gap year to improve in areas of their weaknesses, such as standardized test scores. Participating in shadowing experiences, earning service hours, building their resumes and practicing interviewing skills are other options. Another popular option is to enroll in a one or two-year Master’s program in a related field according to Payne. “It is a wise and mature step, on the part of the student to have a plan B and C in place, or a parallel plan that can help you work alongside your first career plan,” Payne said. Some students show concern for the effect

aid, says that regulations regarding Title IV are very complex. “Once a student has fulfilled the courses in their current program of study, they will cease to be eligible for federal financial aid unless they switch to a new program of study,” Mingo said. Financial aid does not have any role in the implementation of pre-programs other than to insure that any applicable federal regulations that pertain to both pre-programs and financial aid are followed. Pre-programs only have a set number of courses in each program. Once a student has taken all of the courses in their program, unless they switch to a new program of study or get into the program they wish to, they will cease to receive financial aid. “If the student fails to be in a degree seeking program or the courses he/she is taking do not count in the program of study, the student will either lose all eligibility or only have the courses counting in the program of study count for eligibility for the federal aid,” Mingo said. State aid, such as the HOPE Scholarship, is under different requirements. State aid will pay for credits up to the 127-hour maximum.



# SGA 20/20 program

## A new way for students to voice their opinions

BY TAISHA WHITE & ALANA TINSLEY  
The George-Anne staff

The Student Government Association (SGA) has recently devised a program called SGA 20/20, a system where students can rank their main concerns online and those in higher positions will work to resolve those issues.

With the launch of the SGA Vision 20/20 program, the statewide program's goal is "intended to gather concerns of college students via survey in order to create a best practices guide for all of the collegiate SGA's in the state of Georgia," according to an article on the program launch.

Sarah Tuz, junior public relations major, was not aware of SGA's program, but wishes "there were more programs that help victims [of sexual assault] that want to get help."

Tuz was also concerned for students that are afraid to speak up about their experiences due to the lack of information made public to students.

Mary Catherine Pittman, junior journalism major, thinks that SGA could alleviate the issue of racial tensions by introducing fun things to do on campus that would be inclusive while discussing the topics at hand.

"I feel like racial tensions on campus is high. Students were talking about it in my

media theories class the other day," Pittman said.

Pittman also believes that SGA's 20/20 survey could improve issues around campus if more students participated in the survey.

### What is SGA 20/20?

The SGA 20/20 platform allows SGA as well as the GS administration to hold accountability for the main concerns and identify and ensure that each issue is being handled in a timely manner.

SGA 20/20 was created when SGA president Dylan John went to a summer retreat for SGA and at the event, noticed that many senators within other SGA's had growing concerns within their college as well. The biggest concern that John had was the overwhelming amount of issues that were spoken on but the very little factual data that was presented to show proof of any issue.

"When we went to the state level, there were discussions on sexual assault, discussions on college affordability, but these were all student government presidents just throwing out what they thought were issues," John said. "There is no factual data, there is no ranking. There was to me the biggest concern, there

## Issues at GS

Below is a list of the top 16 issues on Georgia Southern's campus

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Campus safety                 | 9. Administrative transparency   |
| 2. Sexual violence               | 10. Policing practices on campus |
| 3. College affordability         | 11. Racial tension on campus     |
| 4. Diversity and inclusion       | 12. Facilities                   |
| 5. Alcohol/drug abuse            | 13. GSM/LGBTQ resources          |
| 6. Mental health resources       | 14. Disability resources         |
| 7. Academic success resources    | 15. Sustainability               |
| 8. Health and wellness resources | 16. Auxiliary services           |

was no consultation from the students."

After John proposed SGA 20/20, 18 other institutions, including Armstrong State University and Georgia State University, each established

the same ranking system for their schools. So far there has been over 1,200 validated responses within the institutions collectively.

Within SGA 20/20, there have been many senators that

have been assigned to tackle each ranked issue within the system so each issue will have a fair shot in being resolved in the proper manner.

“

There were discussions on sexual assault...but these were all student government presidents just throwing out what they thought were issues. There is no factual data, there is no ranking. There was to me the biggest concern, there was no consultation from the students.”

DYLAN JOHN  
SGA President

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PHOTO COURTESY OF **GEORGE ANDERSEN**

This is just one of the many sculptures located on campus. The whole project began with physics professors Clayton Heller and Sarah Higdon.

# Planetarium sculptures form 'Solar Walk' on campus

**BY BRANDON PLEDGER**

The George-Anne staff

If you think back to last semester, you will recall silver galaxy-shaped sculptures stretching down the Pedestrian. What started for Clayton Heller and Sarah Higdon, physics professors, as an ambitious cosmic journey has taken its first steps towards launch, and it is only up from here.

The idea was first conceptualized by Heller and Higdon in 2006, and was shaped by the forces of Georgia Southern University's Art Department.

The planetarium is a long-standing attraction of the University, and its newest addition has been a sequence of sculptures named after the planets in our solar system. Starting at the Math & Physics Building, the models sprawl down the main Pedestrian and reach out as far as the College of Education.

For Heller and Higdon, it has been a demanding project.

"It took us a while to collaborate with someone on the physical sculpture. It

wasn't until 2008 that we started our collaboration with Marc Moulton. He was really the brains behind the sculptures," Heller said.

If you happen to pass one on the way to class, you might see a black cord wrapped around the base of the design.

"The idea of a 'Solar Walk' is not new itself, but we have taken some twists to make ours more functional art," Heller said. "They aren't completed yet. The cords are for solar lighting, but we're going to replace those and go with solar panels instead. They're hollow, so we plan to put lights in them."

Once the exhibit is complete, it will serve as a scavenger hunt of sorts for more than 8,000 K-12 students in the surrounding Bulloch County area.

It has been more than a ten-year journey for the Physics Department to see the sculptures come to life, and while they are not functional quite yet, Heller and Higdon are finally seeing the work of their department begin manifest on campus.

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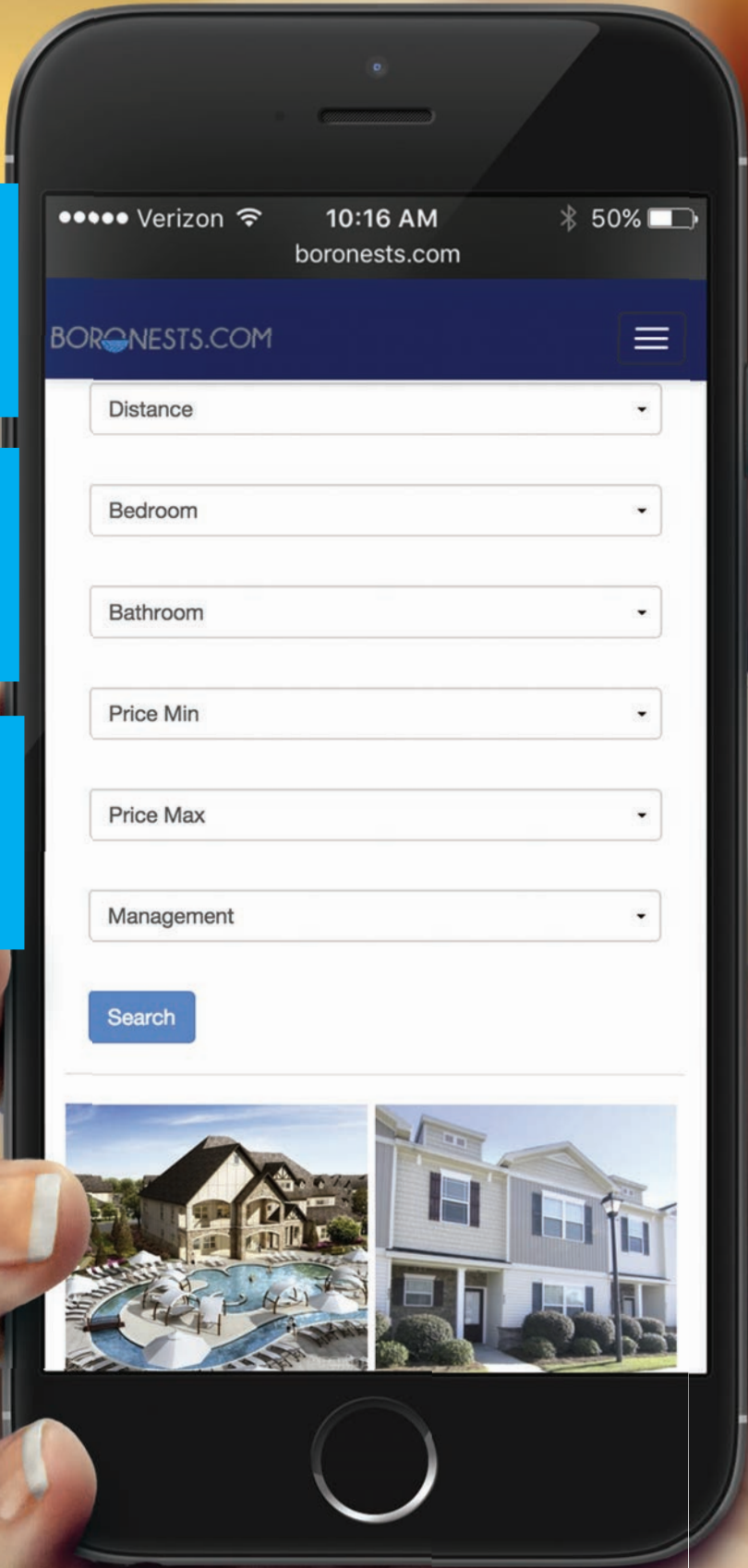
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## Music, moshing, munchies and more



1.

BY JULIA FECHTER

The George-Anne staff

Vendors line the courtyard, offering a variety of products and services. People gather around the main stage, waiting for the next band to start.

When festival-goers want to do something different, they can peruse various bands' merchandise, grab some food or even get a massage.

This may sound similar to a music festival that you have attended. This was the specific atmosphere at Savannah's AURA Fest this past Saturday, Feb. 18.

AURA Fest was a rock-and-roll music festival put on by Coastal Rock Productions at the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum. It lasted all afternoon and attracted people from all around coastal Georgia, the low country and beyond.

There, the tent had everything from shirts to rings to a basket filled with little knickknacks like a small hammer head, bracelets and a bullet shell. That coupled with the mannequin head suspended in the middle of the tent which gave the vendor a different but interesting vibe.

It was a short walk from the courtyard back through the stage area and the parking lot to arrive at the food trucks. Those vendors offered everything from sweets to sandwiches. A taco from Dark Shark Tacos seemed like a feasible lunch.

Eating, as well as drinking, is key to maintaining one's energy when attending a music festival. It helps when what you are eating is a soft taco filled with vegetables and beer-battered mushrooms.

The taco did not last long, which meant it was time to get back to the Southbound stage before the next group, a rock band called Attalus, took the stage.

### Let the music begin



2.

The festival took place in the museum's gardens, yet had a balanced amount of open space and cover. Most people ventured to the larger stage, the Southbound stage, first. That stage sat under lofty rafters and had crowd barriers running along the front of it, in case things got rowdy later.

As attendees walked there from the courtyard, a line of band merchandise tables were stationed along the left side. Some merchandise tables, along with the old arcade games from Graveface Records and Curiosities, also lined the back.

That area was where the first band of the day, local Savannah band Between Symmetries, played their set. With many of their songs, the verses of the tunes would swell from clean vocals backed by mellow instruments to passionate screams backed by resonating riffs.

Many of the band's songs chronicled venues the band has played in Savannah. Other times, the songs explored topics like the singer's relationship with his father. The crowd seemed fairly receptive and willing to stick around for more.

### Spirit and anticipation

The third band that performed was The Funeral Portrait. Their vocalist, Lee Jennings, along with Vatican's Nolan David Mobley, were interviewed for an article that published this past Thursday in The George-Anne about their bands.

They did not disappoint. Their guitars were noticeably more central to the music, as Jennings had earlier mentioned. All the band members, except the drummer, regularly moved around the stage.

The crowd seemed somewhat unsure of whether or not to fully endorse The Funeral Portrait with their cheers and applause, but that seemed to pick up when the band played their last song, "Casanova (C'est La Vie)". The chorus, which repeats the song's title, seemed to be a catchy point for the festival audience to sing along. They did, by lending their shouts and throwing their fists.

The end of the band's set involved a lot of guitar tossing, swinging and twirling, in a way that managed to leave the guitars relatively unscathed.

### Moving with a purpose

Vatican opened the second stage, the Scarbrough stage, with their crunchy, distorted guitars and guttural screams. People continued to crowd around the stage and farther back toward the Scarbrough House. They, like Between Symmetries, were also a local band. That, combined with their musical style, helped create a hyped atmosphere for people to express themselves.

Soon after Vatican started playing, the vacant space in front of the stage was flooded with people moshing. For those who may not have witnessed

### Mannequin heads, tacos and more music

The clouds had not turned to rain, so the air was slightly brisk but pleurably cool. One of the vendors there, House of Strut, had a tent version of their vintage clothing shop set up.



3.



# experiencing AURA Fest

it, moshing is an aggressive form of dancing that can involve pushing, stomping and swinging one's arms. There are also those who choose to express themselves by running around in a circle or fully flailing their arms and kicking their legs.

None of the other bands at AURA Fest got as animated of a response from the crowd. That may also have to do with the time of day, as people were still arriving at the festival and seemed fairly energized.

## Making the most of it

Around this time, the amount of people at the festival reached its maximum between 200 to 400 people. Many of them looked eager to see the more well-known bands.

The second band to play the Scarbrough stage was local band, Me and the Trinity. They seemed to create a more intimate, interactive vibe with the audience.

The vocalist stepped out into the crowd and let fans scream into his microphone. Like Vatican, they seemed to really use the small stage and the space in front of it to their advantage.

## Night takes hold

It was time to scarf down another meal. This time, it was a basket of chicken tenders and fries from Molly MacPherson's food truck. It was much-needed after the long rounds of standing and walking.

As the food in the basket dwindled to a few honey mustard-covered fries, it seemed like time to indulge in another feature of the festival, massages.

Virginia College students from its therapeutic massage program staffed a tent by the courtyard. Massages may seem like an odd aspect to have at a music festival. However, it makes more sense when all of the activity people may be involved in during a music festival.

As the masseuse worked her magic, it was easy to drift into a quasi-trance and forget a music festival was happening. Then, like that, she was done. Getting the massage made me realize how much of a workout attending a festival can be. You could have sore legs from standing a long time or sore arms from holding up your phone to record.

## The final notes

The rest of it went by rather quickly. Oh Sleeper, ZAO and Unearth were some of the bigger bands at the festival, and they all played on the Southbound stage.

The bands each had a commanding stage presence and used it to their advantage either by engaging the crowd in song, jumping into the crowd or bouncing around the stage with a contagious energy.

That energy persisted, even as some, already worn out from the day's festivities, began to leave. The last moshing of the day happened when Unearth sang the last songs as the festival reached its inevitable conclusion.

Overall, this music festival was one of the biggest rock festivals to happen near Statesboro in a while. It brought together people from multiple communities to form a larger community.

This larger music community seemed primarily concerned with enjoying the music and enjoying it with others that liked it, too.



4.



5.



6.

1. Between Symmetries' vocalist, Adam Jernkins, passionately performs his band's music, along with his drummer, Michael Britt. Between Symmetries is from Savannah, Ga.
2. Lee Jennings, the vocalist for The Funeral Portrait, steps off of the stage and sings to a girl in the crowd. The Funeral Portrait was the third band that that played at AURA Fest Saturday.
3. The Funeral Portrait's bassist, Chris King, takes his bass off of his body. All of the guitarists tossed and twirled their guitars at the end of the band's set.
4. Energized festival goers participate in Vatican's music by starting a mosh pit in front of the Scarbrough stage. Vatican's music is a mix of the metal and hardcore genres.
5. The vocalist for I Set My Friends on Fire, Matt Mehana, lets a young man from the crowd grab the microphone and sing along to the band's music. I Set My Friends on Fire is a band that mixes multiple genres, like electronic and metal music.
6. Metal band ZAO's vocalist, Daniel Weyandt, kneels to sing the lyrics to one of his band's songs. ZAO was a headliner and one of the oldest bands at AURA Fest.





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# GS ATHLETICS BUDGET RISING AFTER JOINING SUN BELT

BY THOMAS JILK & RANDY HARRIS  
The George-Anne staff & contributor

The budget allocation for Georgia Southern athletics continues to increase, spurred by the 2014 decision to move up to FBS-level football and join the Sun Belt Conference, as well as mandatory scholarship additions.

## FBS MOVE

In 2013, the year before joining the FBS and the Sun Belt, the GS budget for athletics was a shade over \$13 million. In 2015, the total athletic budget sent by GS to the NCAA was over \$21 million.

GS athletic administrators attributed the increase chiefly to the move up to the Football Bowl Subdivision. Jeff Blythe, Georgia Southern's Associate Athletic Director for Business Operations, has dealt with the athletic budget for the past 10 years.

"When you move up to the FBS level, it requires 85 scholarships, so you have 22 scholarships that you have to add to the football budget," Blythe said.

## TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS

Blythe explained that according to Title IX regulations, Georgia Southern was then required to add at least 22 scholarships to women's athletics. This prompted the founding of two new programs, one of which was facilitated by current Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs, Larry Mays.

"I was director of golf and we hired a women's coach and started that program and at the same time we started a rifle program," Mays said.

The Title IX requirements also brought about additional scholarships in swimming and diving as well as track and field.

"The biggest cost difference was the increase in scholarships," Blythe said.

The difference between the athletic budgets in 2013 and 2014, the years before and after joining the Sun Belt, was over \$5.5 million.

Blythe added that the 2016 yearly budget was done differently from before, in a more comprehensive way - including multiple facilities expenses such as new turf at

Paulson Stadium.

This led to the 2016 number appearing drastically higher at over \$30 million, but that number, Blythe said, is not comparable to the previous budgets.

## TRAVELLING COST

The sports not directly affected by the move in terms of scholarships, such as men's basketball, now need more funding for travel. Sun Belt opponents tend to be further from Statesboro than those in the Southern Conference.

"We went from a bus league to a league where you have to jump on airplanes," Georgia Southern head men's basketball coach Mark Byington said. "It's just something that's unavoidable."

Byington said that while competing in the Sun Belt, the resources provided by the school for him to run his program have been "adequate". Byington worked as an assistant coach at the University of Virginia in 2004-2005 and at Virginia Tech in 2012-2013, two schools in Power Five conferences with larger

athletics budgets.

"We've got to be more mindful of our budget and we've got to make decisions probably more well in advance," Byington said. "There's times where we could fly, but we've got to save some money by being on a bus."

## THE PLAN

The idea behind moving to the FBS is to ultimately attract more students to Georgia Southern. Prominence in media and expanded marketing are two key goals of the athletic administration which believes this could pull more students to the university.

"The hope was that because we are more on the forefront of the national media, playing the Georgia's and the Georgia Techs of the world rather than the Furman and the Citadels of the world, that more students would be attracted to Georgia Southern, and thus the enrollment would go up," Blythe said.

When enrollment goes up, the total budget goes up. Since 2014, while the total athletics budget has risen

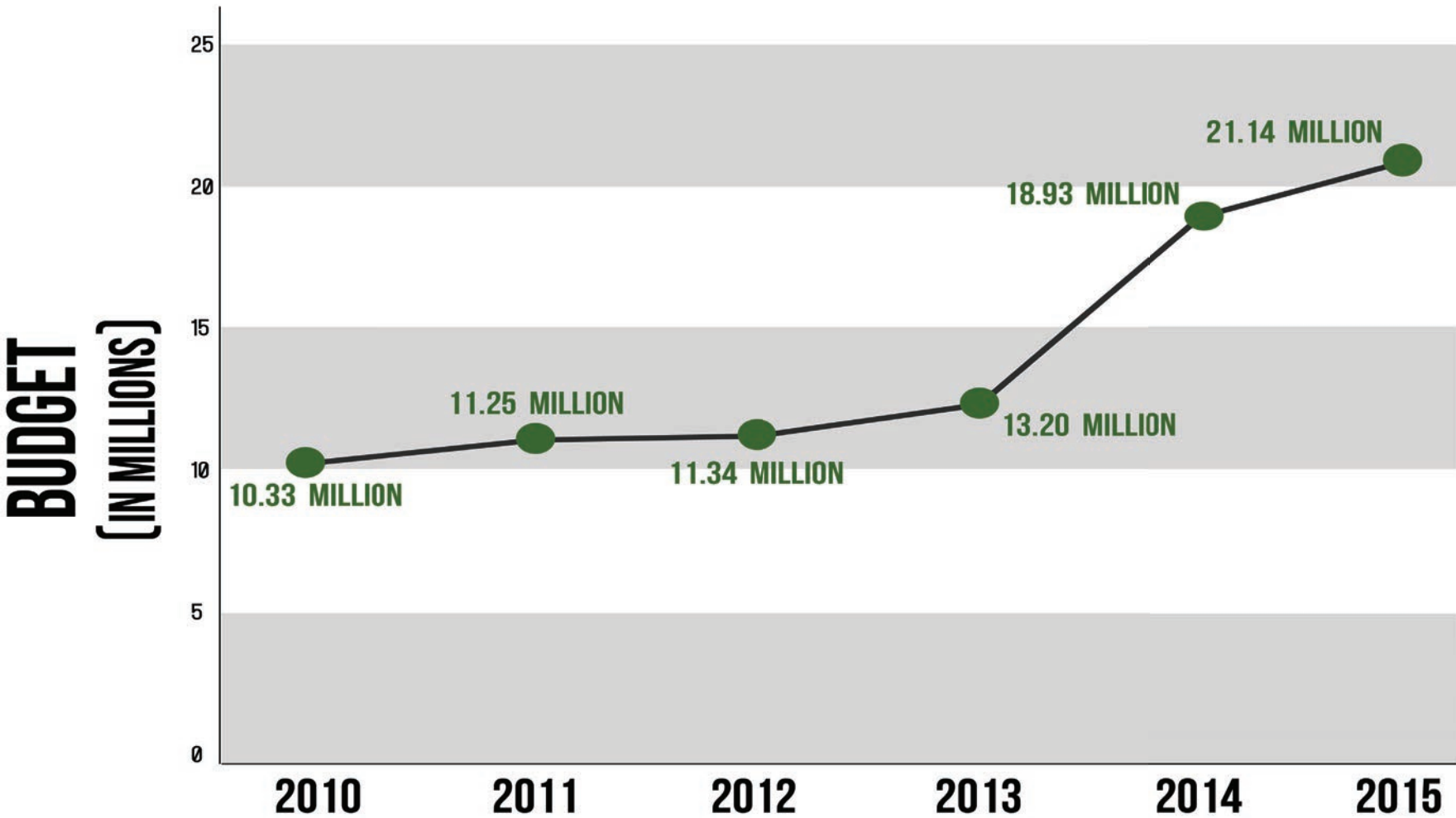
substantially, total enrollment has only increased by 156 students.

Athletic budgets impact each program from top to bottom, including student-athletes. Jake Abraham was a member of the GS football team from 2012 to 2016. A former finance major, he now attends graduate school and is looking to get a Master's in Business Administration. He believes recruiting could be a valuable use of the increased budget.

"I think it is more useful to go towards recruiting due to our new national spotlight," Abraham said. "Any extra investment into recruiting is well spent."

The millions of dollars added to the GS athletics budget over the past seven years will continue to be put to work towards both drawing students to the university and a growing geographical influence for athletic marketing. As GS completes year four in the Sun Belt and prepares to consolidate with Armstrong State University, its athletics program continues to increase its financial magnitude and amplify its visibility.

# TOTAL GS ATHLETIC BUDGETS OVER TIME



Information from annual GS Operating Revenue Reports submitted to NCAA



# MEN'S TENNIS EXTENDS WIN STREAK TO SEVEN MATCHES

## EAGLES SWEEP THREE TEAMS OVER THE WEEKEND



**BY THOMAS JILK**  
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern men's tennis team won all three of their matches this weekend at the Wallis Tennis Center in Statesboro, taking each match by a score of 4-0. Each match was scored by the first three singles match-ups to finish their two sets, plus the best-of-three doubles point. The Eagles remained undefeated at home on the season at 8-0. They improved their overall record to 11-4.

On Friday GS played a doubleheader against Gardner-Webb and Abraham Baldwin College.

**GARDNER-WEBB MATCH**

After Gardner-Webb's doubles team of freshman Maximillion Scholl and sophomore Paul Hogan upended the Eagles' duo of senior Christian Kerrigan and freshman Diego Finkelstein, GS rallied in the next two doubles sets to win the doubles point.

GS redshirt senior Dani Casablancas and junior Eddie Landin comprised one GS winning doubles squad and junior Artemie Amari and freshman Santiago Suarez made up the other victorious duo.

Casablancas, Amari and freshman Stefano Di Aloy each

took their singles matches for three more points for the Eagles and their first win of the weekend.

"We were able to push through and not let Gardner-Webb back into the match," GS head coach Sander Koning said.

**ABRAHAM BALDWIN MATCH**

Friday afternoon, the Eagles faced off against Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The duo of Kerrigan and Finkelstein came back to win their doubles set, 6-4 against ABAC's formidable Nguyen brothers. Koning called Kerrigan and Finkelstein "poised under pressure."

Amari and Suarez knocked off their opponents, 6-0 and GS clinched the doubles point. In singles play, Amari, Finkelstein, and freshman Murphy McCullough knocked off their opponents, none of them winning any set by less than a 6-3 score.

**SUNDAY MATCH**

After a Saturday to recover, the Eagles returned to the Wallis Tennis Center Sunday afternoon to take on the Stetson Hatters.

The Eagles number 1 singles player, junior JC Alcala, played in the match after sitting out

both on Friday. Alcala and Landin won their doubles match, 6-2, against Stetson freshmen Angus Bradshaw and William Shkrob. Kerrigan and Finkelstein again won in doubles for the Eagles, clinching another doubles point for GS. Dani Casablancas defeated Shkrob in singles play.

Di Aloy and Amari defeated Stetson sophomores Pierre-Emmanuel Fossier and Coilin Macnamara, respectively. Amari only surrendered a singular game to his opponent in singles, winning his match 6-1, 6-0.

### UPCOMING MATCH

Koning and the Eagles will travel to Macon on Thursday, facing the Mercer Bears at 2:30 p.m. Mercer is having a solid (5-2) season entering Thursday's match.

After Mercer, GS will have over a week without matches. They will be returning to the Wallis Tennis Center in Statesboro to face another three-match stretch in the span of three days, beginning on Saturday, March 4.

The Eagles will take on Kennesaw State at 12 p.m. March 4, as well as Bethune-Cookman at 4 p.m. the same day. On Monday, March 6, the Eagles will take on East Carolina at 2:30 p.m.

# BASEBALL TEAM SHOWED PERSEVERANCE IN SERIES WIN OVER MTSU

**BY DONALD COE**  
The George-Anne staff

It was an eventful opening weekend at J.I. Clements Stadium that saw the Eagles overcome a couple of deficits to take two out of three games from Middle Tennessee.

Game one started as much anticipated for Eagle fans who saw sophomore Brian Eichhorn take the mound. Eichhorn had to navigate through the tough Blue Raider offense, as he went four innings while giving up

two runs on four hits with three strikeouts. Georgia Southern was able to come back to tie the game at five late in the bottom of the sixth to force extra innings, but they couldn't hold on in the tenth and fell 6-5.

Game two saw the Eagles struggle again being down 6-0 with no answer for Blue Raider pitcher Tyler Hasper who gave up just two hits and struck out 11 Eagle batters in his six innings of work. Then the magic grew for the Eagles, scoring two

in the seventh before exploding in the ninth.

Sophomore Tyler Martin led off the inning with a long home run over the left field fence, before the Eagles were able to load the bases. One of the senior leaders of this ballclub, Ryan Cleveland stepped to the plate with two outs and the bases loaded. He was able to find his pitch and rip it down the right field line to tie up the game with three RBIs.

The Eagles were again able to

load the bases in the tenth, when their unlikely hero, freshman Mason McWhorter, stepped to the dish and delivered an epic walk-off single to give the team their first victory of the season.

The rubber match on Sunday had the Eagles take an early lead and get a solid start from sophomore Chase Cohen before they found themselves down again in the late innings. The guys were able to chip away at the struggling Middle Tennessee bullpen until senior

Evan McDonald hit a go-ahead two-RBI single in the seventh to guide the Eagles to a series win.

The relief pitching for the Eagles was excellent holding the Blue Raiders scoreless in the final four innings. The Eagles were able to cap off a nice series win with a strong showing on Sunday.

The Eagles have their first midweek game of the season when they welcome Georgia Tech to J.I. Clements Stadium, Tuesday night at 6 p.m.



Senior outfielder Jordan Wren slides into a base. The Eagles won the series 2-1.





Sophomore guard Tookie Brown goes up for a finger-roll. Brown had 15 points on Monday night.

# EAGLES COME UP SHORT AGAINST UT-ARLINGTON

BY THOMAS JILK  
The George-Anne staff

The University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks came to Hanner Fieldhouse on Monday night to take on the Eagles with first place in the Sun Belt Conference on the line. The Eagles came into the game in second at 10-4 in conference play, while the Mavericks were in first at 10-3. GS came into the game with a nine-game home winning streak.

### FIRST HALF

The Sun Belt's leading scorer, GS sophomore guard Ike Smith, came out firing with 11 of the Eagles' first 14 points. UTA junior forward and leading scorer Kevin Hervey and senior guard Jalen Jones had eight early points apiece. The teams traded baskets early and often, exchanging the lead multiple times throughout the first half. Smith stayed hot and ended the first half with 19 points - right around

his season points-per-game average - including 4 of 5 shooting from three-point range.

Hervey led UTA with 12 points and seven rebounds in the first half, in which the Mavericks out-rebounded the Eagles 21 to 13. The Eagles took a 40-37 lead into the locker room on a buzzer-beating deep three-pointer by junior forward B.J. Gladden.

### SECOND HALF

Ike Smith scored the first basket of the half on a post-up to get the Eagles' started in the half. Junior guard Devonte Boykins gave the Eagles a lift off the bench, nailing all four of his three-point attempts and playing staunch backcourt defense against UTA's junior point guard Erick Neal, who came in sixth in the nation in assists per game.

UTA took its first lead since the first half, 59-58, with just under 10 minutes to play in the game.

Maverick senior guard Drew Charles nailed a three to give UTA its largest lead of the game up to that point, 72-65 with 4:37 to go in the game. Hervey made a three to push the UTA lead to 10 and increase his double-double to 22 points and 11 rebounds. The Mavericks would never relinquish that lead, finishing off the Eagles with free throws and defense. Hervey would finish with 28 points and 12 rebounds. His front court mate, senior forward Jorge Bilbao, had 16 points and eight rebounds.

UTA took a one-game lead in the conference as GS fell behind Arkansas State to finish the night in third place in the Sun Belt. Ike Smith finished with 27 points for the Eagles in the loss. The Mavericks would finish the game with 42 rebound to Georgia Southern's 23. UTA would finish with an 81-71 victory at Hanner Fieldhouse.

GS will travel to Little Rock next Monday at 9 p.m.

#TEAMUP

Intramural Sports

SOFTBALL

Online Registration  
February 15 - 28

Play Begins  
March 6

Register at [cri.gs/IM\\_Register](http://cri.gs/IM_Register)

VERTICAL JUMP  
37.5in

PRO AGILITY  
4.14sec

40 YARD DASH  
4.6sec

BENCH PRESS  
11reps

BROAD JUMP  
11'5"

L-DRILL  
7.18sec

CRI COMBINE

February 21 - 5:30-8:30 PM - Main Gym

Find your #RAClife

CAMPUS RECREATION & INTRAMURALS  
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Intramural Sports

CRI OPEN GOLF

Online Registration  
February 6 - April 4

Play Begins  
April 7

Register at [cri.gs/IM\\_Register](http://cri.gs/IM_Register)



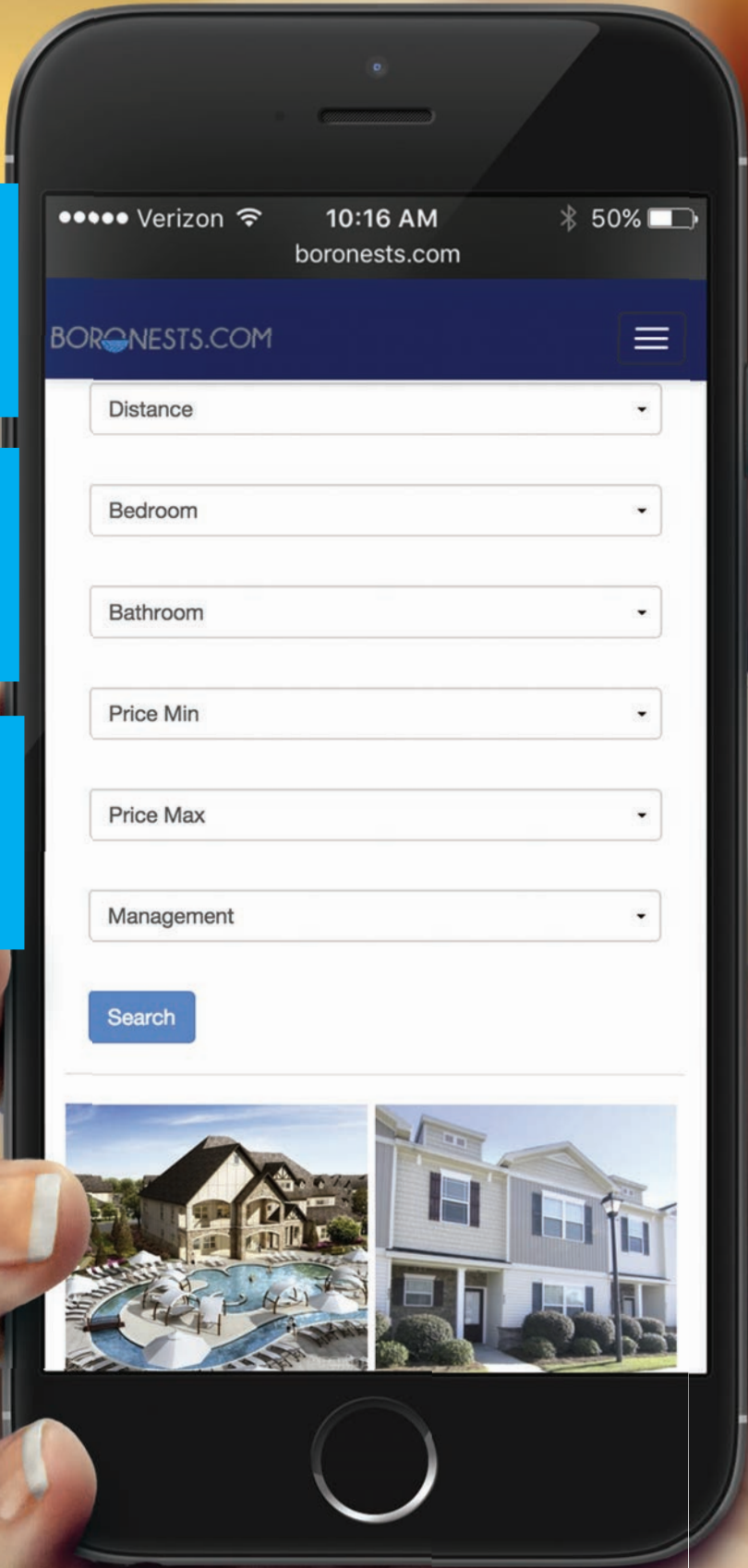
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15

The George-Anne 2/21/17 Crossword

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Across

- 1 Small intake
- 4 Medicinal amt.
- 7 Fa follower
- 10 Cheer for a banderillero
- 13 Frazier foe
- 14 Drink in a mug
- 15 It could be standing
- 17 Resolve
- 19 Uprisings
- 20 Discouraging words
- 21 Digress
- 22 Gospel writer
- 25 Cries of triumph
- 27 Error message?
- 31 Blood-related
- 32 Showman Ziegfeld
- 33 Like some bonds
- 35 Scientist's tool
- 37 Playing marbles
- 38 Colonnade tree
- 39 Those with clout
- 40 Winter bug
- 41 Get firm
- 42 Staggered
- 44 Recess, e.g.
- 46 Church tables
- 47 Minister (Abbr.)
- 48 Mine entrance
- 49 More or \_\_\_\_
- 50 Cat, in Mexico
- 51 Takes out
- 52 Crouch
- 55 Back muscle, for short
- 57 Anecdote
- 60 Charity event
- 64 Cause
- 65 Certain colonist

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- 66 It needs refinement
  - 67 Needle part
  - 68 John \_\_\_\_ Passos
  - 69 Downed
  - 70 Just manage, with "out"
- 10 Painter's medium
  - 11 Realtor's offering
  - 12 Starfleet Academy grad.
  - 16 Industrial city of Japan
  - 18 Concerning
  - 21 Loafer, e.g.
  - 22 Football pass
  - 23 Island strings
  - 24 Fates
  - 26 Priests' vestments
  - 28 External
  - 29 Early delivery?
  - 30 Sonnet parts
  - 33 Evil
- 34 Tropical fever
  - 36 Echelon
  - 40 Worry
  - 43 Riata
  - 44 Social group
  - 45 Small sample
  - 50 Big name in software
  - 53 Extensor muscle
  - 54 Take apart
  - 56 Chip in chips
  - 57 Phenom
  - 58 Have a bawl
  - 59 Stage signal
  - 60 Call to Bo-peep
  - 61 Antagonist
  - 62 Provoke
  - 63 Kicker's aid

Down

- 1 Fluid container
- 2 Feverish
- 3 Cobbler
- 4 Tropical root
- 5 Emergency dollars
- 6 Get-up-and-go
- 7 Puts into piles
- 8 In the past
- 9 Volcano output

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- **March 1st:**Spring Break Event, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. @ Williams Center Plaza
- **April 13th:** Dress In The Press Annual Recycling Event, 5 - 7 p.m. Super Hero Themed Fashion Show begins at 7:30 p.m. @ the Williams Center Multipurpose Center
- **April 19th:** Spring Reflector Magazine Launch Party 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. @ the Russell Union Rotunda
- **April 26th:** #flipfinals Stress Relief Event, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. @ the Russell Union Rotunda



For details or to register a team for Dress In The Press competition contact [smmarketing@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:smmarketing@georgiasouthern.edu)

To contact the creative manager, email [prodmgr@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:prodmgr@georgiasouthern.edu)





# Full Plate GUIDE

## Check out these local restaurant deals!



**-Daily Lunch Specials 11am-2pm \$5.99**  
**- We Accept Eagle Express**  
**- Happy Hour 3-7pm Mon-Friday**  
**- \$7 Domestic Pitchers**  
**- \$2 Wells**  
**- \$3.50 Vegas + 0 Bombs**  
**- \$3 Glass House Wine**



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**NEW YORK STYLE THIN AND THICK SLICES, SUBS, PASTA, COLD BEER, PEPSI, AND OPEN LATE!**

**HOURS: MONDAY- THURSDAY (11:00AM-2:00AM)**  
**FRIDAY- SATURDAY (11:00AM-3:00AM)**  
**ADDRESS: 450 S MAIN ST. STATESBORO, GEORGIA**  
**PHONE NUMBER: (912) 871-5277**

## Check out these local listings!

**American:**

- Bites  
1212 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Shane's Rib Shack  
1100 Brampton Ave, Suite J, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Fordhams FarmHouse  
23657 U.S. 80, Brooklet, GA 30415
- 40 East Grill  
40 E Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Dingus Magee's  
3 Georgia Avenue, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Lee's Restaurant  
458 W Jones Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458
- RJ's Grill  
434 S Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Subway  
1550 Chandler Rd, Statesboro, GA
- Wild Wings  
52 Aspen Heights Dr., Statesboro, GA 30458

**Mexican:**

- Barberitos  
1100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458
- El Jalapeno  
711 S Main St, Statesboro, GA
- El Riconcito  
2 College Plaza, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Moe's Southwestern Grill  
608 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Coffee**

- Rock-It Coffee  
1596 Chandler Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 3 Tree Coffee  
441 South Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Cool Beanz Espresso Bar  
58 East Main Street, Statesboro, GA

- Ellianos  
598 Brannen Street, Statesboro, GA

**Deli:**

- Baldinos Giant Jersey Subs  
1204 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

- McAlister's Del  
1100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Fast Food:**

- Jimmy John's  
100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Japanese:**

- Tokyo  
100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Barbecue:**

- Bourbon Grill & More  
718 Northside Dr E #10, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Vandy's BBQ  
725 Northside Dr. East Suite, Statesboro GA 30458

- Boyd's BBQ & Country Buffet  
302 Northside Dr W, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Chinese:**

- Southern Palace  
224 S Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Seafood:**

- The Boiling Shrimp  
12218 US-301, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Sweets & Treats:**

- Bruster's Real Ice Cream  
Statesboro Mall, 995 Lovett Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Daylight Donuts  
455 S Main St, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Dunkin' Donuts  
606 Fair Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458

- La' Berry  
1100 Brampton Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Simply Sweet Cakery  
609 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA

- Sugar Magnolia  
106C Savannah Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Pita:**

- Pita Pit  
609 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA 30458

**Pizza:**

- Mellow Mushroom  
1098 Suite 1, Bermuda Run, Statesboro, GA 30458
- Primos Italian Pizza Kitchen  
609-9 Brannen St, Statesboro, GA 30458

- Your Pie  
701 Piedmont Loop #200, Statesboro, GA 30458