Culinary Collaboration

Bulloch County businesses work together to offer expanded cuisine options

Page 8

Five-Year High

GS donations at an all-time record

Pages 6-7

EMPTY-HANDED

Basketball teams end season in disappointing fashion

Page 11
**Weather Bar**

The first day of Spring seems to have brought warmer weather. The highs should remain in the 70s and 80s on Tuesdays and Wednesday.

**Tuesday**
- High: 86°
- Low: 61°
- 0 percent chance of rain

**Wednesday**
- High: 78°
- Low: 52°
- 20 percent chance of rain

**Thursday**
- High: 57°
- Low: 47°
- 50 percent chance of rain

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**Brooke’s Spring Break**

Soon after lunch we had to discover all that the Harry Potter attraction had to offer. As an avid reader, I am ashamed to admit that after learning a very big spoiler in the series, I refused to read any more books. I still can appreciate the fandom though. Overall, it was a really fun day, and I got a churro.

**Islands of Adventure**

I was excited for Islands of Adventure because it has some cooler rides and other things to offer, and it was a lot of fun exploring all there was to offer. I will be honest and admit that I liked the Dr. Seuss memorabilia more than I care to admit. We also went to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter here as well, and it was really cool to see a work of fiction come to life in front of my eyes. As I was standing in line at one of the rides, I decided to take the quiz to see what house I would be sorted into. (If you create a Pottermore account, you can too!) I was surprised to learn I am a Hufflepuff.

Read more at ReflectorGSU.com

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**CORRECTION**

In the March 9 edition, the article titled “Living on campus as an upperclassmen: The pros and cons” incorrectly attributed a quote to Kiera Zellerer. “I think that (on campus living) can be terrible because of the strict rules that are enforced while you’re trying to be an adult for the first time.” should not have been included as Zellerer did not state this. The George Anne regrets this error.

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**STUDY ABROAD FAIR**

Tuesday, September 19
Russell Union Ballroom
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The George-Anne 3/21/17 Crossword

Puzzles

The theme for for this year’s Dress in the Press is Superheroes and Villains. Each team will be assigned a different character to be the inspiration for their outfit.

Now accepting team applications!
You and three of your friends can create an outfit from recycled Student Media publications, display it in a fashion show, and win prizes!

Teams of four consist of 1 model and 3 designers.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 13th.

Deadline: March 21st
The event will take place on Thursday, April 13th.

To contact the creative manager, email prodmgr@georgiasouthern.edu

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Dress in the Press

Team Submissions

Dress in the Press
7th Annual Newspaper Dress-Making Competition
Now accepting team applications!
You and three of your friends can create an outfit from recycled Student Media publications, display it in a fashion show, and win prizes!

Teams of four consist of 1 model and 3 designers.

The theme for for this year’s Dress in the Press is Superheroes and Villains. Each team will be assigned a different character to be the inspiration for their outfit.

Submit team member names, all contact info and any questions you have to Imani Moody, PR Coordinator

im00533@georgiasouthern.edu

Deadline: March 21st
The event will take place on Thursday, April 13th.

To contact the creative manager, email prodmgr@georgiasouthern.edu
Many of us have spent our last day of the semester at the one place we wish we didn’t have to be. The dreaded book buy-back line in the University Store at the end of every semester and sometimes students are to either sell back our books so that the university doesn’t actually save that 20 minutes of line standing for the next semester, so we’ll give you a lower buyback price. Try selling it back the following semester,” Salter said. “Or you can try selling it to a friend or the following semester,” Salter said.

For some of us leaving Georgia Southern, selling back next semester isn’t really an option for us. So our choices are to either sell back our books so that we can buy a pack of gum or keep the books and have a very unprofessional empty feeling. at the same time I leave with a very cold, empty feeling. For students, it feels like the bookstore is ripping us off when we sell our books for a pitance compared to when we bought them, just for the bookstore to turn it around and sell it again for $3 less than the original price as a “used” book.

The Book Buy Back Process is a Rip Off

CYNTHIA JONES
Jones is a senior journalism major from Pembroke, Ga. This is a guest column.

A harsh reality

It’s your turn now and you’re standing at the counter waiting for the student employee to tell you how much cash you’re going to be rolling in.

“We can give you $12,” he says. Next thing you know he’s having a “30 Rock”-type flashback to the beginning thing you know you’re having a “30 way if the university doesn’t actually revenue they might make by checking the demand and marketplace of textbooks that are new and being updated more frequently and suggests other methods of getting the most out of your money for a one time use of a textbook.

“Sometimes we don’t need that book for the next semester, so we’ll give you a lower buyback price. Try selling it back the following semester,” Salter said. “Or you can try selling it to a friend or online.”

For students, it feels like the bookstore is trying to rip you off and in fact is not trying to rip you off. I'll take the pack of gum.

University Store response

Contrary to popular belief, Brooke Salter, textbook manager at the University Store, says that the bookstore isn’t trying to rip you off and in fact keeps students in mind when buying books back.

“Most of the stuff we’re buying back is up to 50 percent of the new cost, so that’s more money for our students,” Salter said.

Salter said the amount students get back depends on the demand and marketplace of textbooks that are new and being updated more frequently and suggests other methods of getting the most out of your money for a one time use of a textbook.

“The choice we’re faced with is to either take the little bit of money offered or to go on throughout the day living with the weight of a useless textbook and the knowledge that it is now only worth $12. I always take the money, but at the same time I leave with a very cold, empty feeling. For students, it feels like the bookstore is ripping us off when we sell our books for a pitance compared to when we bought them, just for the bookstore to turn it around and sell it again for $3 less than the original price as a “used” book.

Student experience

Marissa Faircloth, a junior accounting major, knows this feeling all too well. Two semesters ago, she bought a brand new chemistry book for $140. When she went to sell it back they offered her $2 because “a new edition came out that semester.”

Now this doesn’t happen all the time. New editions don’t necessarily come out every semester and sometimes students do get more than $2 back.

Checking before wasting time

Students can check to see how much revenue they might make by checking the University Store’s website. That’s more money for our students,” Salter said.

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New exhibit at the GS Museum gains attention for student involvement

BY ASHLEY JONES
The Georgia Southern Museum presented a new exhibit that features pieces created by GS art students. “The World’s War is Georgia’s War” is the new exhibit at the GS Museum. The exhibit is meant to channel the United States’ involvement in World War I through Georgia’s experience. The collaboration of history majors, art majors and Statesboro locals brought the exhibit to life, according to Brent Tharp, museum director.

“We’ve had communication art students, art students and history students all involved in the process of curating and fabricating and building this exhibit,” Tharp said.

According to Tharp, the information and graphics gathered by history students were given to a professional practices design class. The class split into groups and competed for best design. Essentially all elements of each group’s designs were used in the exhibit.

People from the Bulloch County community partook in the curation by donating old photos of loved ones that were involved in World War I, as well as letters, stories and clothing that are now artifacts in the exhibit.

Also featured is the story of women and their involvement in the war as well as the involvement of African Americans.

The exhibit shows a life-sized recreation of the trenches that soldiers of the war slept in.

Brittany Sealey, graduate student curator and lead coordinator of the exhibit, expressed her excitement for all of the positive feedback and attention her exhibit has received.

“I think the coolest thing is seeing all of the visitors come in and then some of the off-shooting projects we’ve had from it,” Sealey said.

According to Sealey, the Georgia World War I Commission was first to view the project. The exhibit will also be featured in the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta airport and other universities have shown interest in featuring the exhibit as well.

CFS honors sustainable projects with 3rd annual green eagles awards

BY BRENDAN WARD

The Center for Sustainability is currently accepting nominations for the 3rd annual Green Eagle Awards. The Green Eagles Awards were started in 2015 to honor members of the Georgia Southern University community who are actively contributing towards GS’s goal of sustainability through sustainability projects.

Director of the CFS Lissa Leege explained the original motivation for starting the awards.

“We wanted to honor some of the people that are working so hard towards sustainability on our campus,” said Leege. “It takes a team to make progress and this is a way to recognize the sustainability champions on our campus.”

Nominations are open to any GS student, faculty or staff member and the deadline to submit a nomination is April 3 at 11:59 p.m.

The nomination form can be found on the CFS website.

Nominations should be submitted by faculty mentor, adviser, staff member, or colleague who is familiar with the nominee’s work and not self-submitted.

All nominations must include:
- A statement describing the nominee’s sustainability role and activities at GS.
- A statement describing the nominee’s contributions to campus sustainability projects or research.
- A description of the impact the nominee’s activities on sustainability initiatives at GS.

Once all applications are in, the Center for Sustainability Fee Committee will decide the winners based on the above criteria and winners will be notified by email.

The winners will be honored at an award ceremony, which will be held on April 20 in the first floor exhibit area of Henderson Library at 3 p.m.

During the ceremony the winners will be awarded with a certificate and a thank you award from the CFS. A plaque with all of the 2017 winners’ names on it will also be revealed during the ceremony.

All information about the awards, including a full list of requirements, as well as previous winners, can be found on the CFS website under the grants and awards tab.
Over $9 million was donated to Georgia Southern University at the end of Fiscal Year 2016, according to the Annual Giving Report, making last fiscal year the most profitable donation year since 2012.

While the total amount of donations is on the rise, one thing has remained low; student recognition of alumni donations. Both student organizations and the Donor Relations department have acknowledged this issue and are working to make students more aware of the impact of donations to Georgia Southern. Before getting into the recognition issue, however, it’s worth taking a look at the breakdown of donations by year and category as well as how one student organization wants to get their name out.

**Southern S.T.A.T. and the numbers**

Southern S.T.A.T.’s mission it to get the student body more educated about alumni and donation relations. “Southern S.T.A.T. stands for Southern Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow. Our main goal right now is really just to educate the student body on why it’s so important to give back,” Lindsey Heard, secretary for Southern S.T.A.T. said.

According to Heard, not everything is fully funded by just student’s tuition and state funding. Private donations are very important to Georgia Southern’s success. In fact, a total of $9.1 million was received by GS in FY 2016, coming from various groups, organizations and people. Close to 75 percent of donations came from alumni and corporations combined, at 42 and 31 percent respectively. Seventeen percent of donations came from friends and eight percent came from foundations. Rounding out the list, two percent of donations came from other sources.

FY 2016 continues to show the increase of total donations Georgia Southern receives. Annual Giving Reports are available online for viewing from last year’s all the way back to 2012. Where the donation money comes from, however, has greatly fluctuated throughout the years.

**Alumni and corporations**

FY 2016 saw the highest alumni percentage of donations since 2012. At 42 percent, alumni donations rose 18 percent from just 24 percent last fiscal year. There are a variety of ways alumni donate to Georgia Southern, from restricted and unrestricted gifts to endowments, pledges and outright cash or checks. Restricted and unrestricted gifts depend upon the donor. Restricted gifts are donated by the donor to a particular program, college, or department and is used by whatever the donor deems is important. This differs from unrestricted gifts, in which the university determines what is most needed at the time and puts the money towards that instead.

Corporations in FY ’16 was also at the highest percentage of donations since 2012. 31 percent of donations came from corporations. According to the Corporate Support page on the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management website, corporation donations are used for university speakers and other organizations and programs on campus. FY ’13 had the second highest percentage at 24 percent, followed by FY ’12 at 17 percent, FY ’14 at 16 percent and finally FY ’15 at 15 percent.
Foundations, friends and others

While alumni and corporations made up most of the donations last year, the remaining 27 percent came from foundations, friends of the school and other sources. Friends of the university donated 17 percent of total donations received last year, which ties with their lowest percentage in FY ‘12. In FY ‘15, friends of GS made up exactly 50 percent of the total donations for that year. It is unknown why the number dropped 33 percent last year, but Jill Forehand, Director of Donor Relations, says that a lot of time it depends on a variety of factors.

“It could be a lot of things. It could be based on market performance. Some people give based on their investments. Right now, markets are good so you tend to have people more willing to give,” Forehand said.

There are many categories of Donor Relations and Forehand is in charge of acknowledgements.

“We are actually not out asking for money but we are acknowledging the funds that come in and thanking our donors,” Forehand said.

Whether it is making sure that a particular Dean of a college or even President Hebert himself has to write a letter of thanks to a donor or something else entirely, Forehand and others make sure that donors feel appreciated and welcomed.

“We want people to feel good about what they’re giving to so that when we call again and ask again, they’ll have a good experience,” Forehand said.

The challenge

Both Heard and Forehand agreed that students were largely unaware of how important donor relations are.

“I think overall...there is a disconnect,” Forehand said.

Forehand went on to mention the various ways both Donor Relations and Southern S.T.A.T. have been trying to get the word out. A recent event that was hosted was “For the Love of Blue”, in which students had the opportunity to see the on campus organizations with philanthropies, as well as participate in a scavenger hunt that taught participants all about private giving.

For the Love of Blue was hosted by Southern S.T.A.T. and sponsored by the Office of Annual Giving.

“[For the Love of Blue] is a two week long campaign because February is Student Philanthropy and Month,” Heard said. “So we have things like a philanthropy fair where Greek organizations came, then off campus philanthropic organizations came and just told the students about what they do.”

The goal in the upcoming years for Southern S.T.A.T. is to become more noticeable on campus. It is only the second full year of the organization and Heard wants more students to know about them.

Heard said, “Within the next few years, I really want it to be where we don’t have to tell as many students who we are. Hopefully as we hold more events we can become a bit more successful at that.”

Both Donor Relations and other groups on campus help facilitate donations from alumni and current students, faculty and staff. They have also recognized that many students are unaware of the benefits of donations.

“Within the next few years, I really want it to be where we don’t have to tell as many students who we are. Hopefully as we hold more events we can become a bit more successful at that.”

LINDSEY HEARD
Secretary for Southern S.T.A.T.
BY JULIA FECHTER

Statesboro has seen an influx of privately-owned businesses over the past couple of years. Now, some of those same businesses are joining forces to offer each other’s products.

Chad Montgomery, owner of 4&20 Bakers, and Travis Phillips, owner of The Painted Chef, have been working the past few months to serve each other’s and other businesses’ products.

Holiday’s Pizza and Vandy’s now carry Montgomery’s desserts. Additionally, The Painted Chef, Holiday’s and Vandy’s now prepare meals for Montgomery to serve out of his food truck.

“He’s contracted me out to do the lunch one to two days a week, so I will be providing him barbecue, brisket, ribs or whatever else to serve off of his food truck,” Phillips said.

Montgomery feels like he can provide better customer service by being more of a one-stop shop. He has used this partnership to his advantage by securing a contract with East Georgia State College in Statesboro to provide food for the campus.

“They thought that I would be a good fit with coffee and desserts. So when they heard about sausage gravy and biscuits, they were really interested,” Montgomery said. “And then when I said I could do lunch featuring Vandy’s, Holiday’s and the Painted Chef, they were like ‘This is perfect. Let’s do it.’”

He hopes that with Gateway Plaza and Briggs and Stratton nearby, he will also get business from outside the school.

“I want to be that example, because when you buy from local businesses, you support your community...our money stays here, if you look at it that way,” Montgomery added.

Cooking with crickets

Montgomery has also been gearing up for the hard premiere of his cricket flour at the GS Nutrition Fair.

The flour is 100 percent cricket. It may sound like an unusual ingredient choice for a pastry chef. However, Montgomery claimed the flour was easier for people to accept at the Taste of Statesboro event because they had already heard about it through things like the cricket bar on the “Shark Tank” television show.

“People who have more of a global awareness know people in other countries eat insects and basically, there’s two benefits. One, it has high protein. Two, it’s so sustainable,” Montgomery said.

The cricket flour pays off financially and environmentally because of the minimal resources it requires.

Montgomery has also been working on the hard premiere of his cricket flour at the GS Nutrition Fair.

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Owner, The Painted Chef

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CHAD MONTGOMERY
Owner, 4&20 Bakers

The cricket flour pays off financially and environmentally because of the minimal resources it requires.

Montgomery sometimes tops his cricket cupcakes with meal worms. Those worms are typically fed to small reptiles and have a high protein content. Photo courtesy of Chad Montgomery.

Chad Phillips’s signature basket sits in the smoker after having cooked for three days. Phillips provides some of his barbeque to Eagle Creek Brewery and 4&20 Bakers. Photo credit to Kiara Griffin.

Eagle’s Nest

Travis Phillips recently expanded The Painted Chef from its spot in Register, Georgia, to the kitchen of Eagle Creek Brewery in Downtown Statesboro.

Phillips also wants to open up lunch service during the week at the brewery. Currently, The Painted Chef only serves dinner there from Wednesday to Sunday.

He plans for the lunch options to be blue plate specials, where customers have a couple of different meal options each day.

“They’ll be something that’s easy to prepare and can be brought out to your table in five minutes...it’ll be fast downtown service,” Phillips said.

Phillips is offering a twist on classic brewpub foods at Eagle Creek. One of the foods he is offering is called the Eagle’s Nest.

“The Eagle’s Nest is waffle fries, pulled pork, queso cheese, barbecue sauce and a deep-fried banana pepper,” Phillips said.

He is also working with other small businesses like Montgomery. He gets his sausage from the Hunter Cattle Company based out of Stilson, Georgia.

“They made a sausage for us using our beer, which is Pale Ale, and used bleu cheese in it...it’s called a Statesboro Blue,” Phillips said.

As Phillips continues to expand food operations at Eagle Creek, he is relying on his employee Frank Lloyd to cover cooking at the brewery.

Lloyd has a background in the restaurant business from his time in Philadelphia and has worked for Phillips ever since he opened the Register restaurant this past August.

Phillips said, “[Lloyd] just being here...I couldn’t do any of this without him.”
Local fraternity raises funds for an incurable disease

The week kicks off with a procession beginning at the top of Greek Row. The men carry a coffin while processing down the street and each participating sorority joins in. Upon arrival, the story of the legend of Paddy Murphy is told and the week-long philanthropy event kicks off.

**Ways GS community can help**

In order to make this year more successful than ever, SAE is hosting a spirit night between March 29 and March 31 at Moe’s on Brannan Street from 6 p.m. to close, where 20 percent of the proceeds are donated to Reid. Their goal is to raise as much money as possible to help Reid and his family get one step closer to finding a cure and there are two ways you can help make that happen.

In addition, donations to the cause are being accepted through GoFundMe from now until March 31 at gofundme.com/3bv780.

**The Competition**

SAE plans to raise over $10,000 by hosting a competition where each sorority will compete for the “estate” and be given the position of wife for the honored SAE Legend and Alum, Paddy Murphy.

When Paddy Murphy died he left behind his estate to his wife but no one knew who his wife was. Each sorority represents one of its potential “wives” and through a variety of competitions including a dodgeball tournament, the women win points based on their participation.

The sorority who earns the most points is proclaimed the winner and earns a percentage of the earned funds to go towards their philanthropy of choice and the second place winner earns a smaller percentage as well.

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**BYALLISON MARTINEZ**

The fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon, SAE, honors a man named Paddy Murphy every year. Paddy Murphy was a member of SAE and an Irishman who became a mobster in the 1920s when the prohibition began. After a crazy turn of events, a fraternal brother working against Murphy killed him. Because of this, the SAE brother who killed Murphy ordered a mandatory yearly celebration and SAE chapters nationwide to honor Murphy’s life each year by hosting philanthropy events.

In 2016 and 2017 the fraternity chose to raise money for Reid Underwood. Reid is 2 years old and the son of an SAE alum who makes the cause impactful for the 90 members in the Georgia Southern chapter.

Reid is currently suffering from a disease called Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa or (RDEB) for short. RDEB is a debilitating disease which is formed due to a lack of collagen in the skin. The lack of collagen in Reid’s skin binds the multitude of skin layers together causing the skin to become extremely fragile.

SAE President Jack Grande talked about Reid’s disease and the complications he faces because of it.

“The fragility of his skin can be directly compared to a butterfly’s wings leading to blistering, abrasions, and even losing large portions of his skin. It’s extremely painful and currently incurable which is why we have to make this known and do what we can to help Reid,” Grande said.

The money raised will go directly towards research via Dr. Jakub Tolar, who is working diligently to find a cure for the disease. Last year, the fraternity raised the most amount of money since the beginning of this tradition. This year their goal is go even further than that, hoping to exceed the amount raised last year, which was $10,000.

“This week is tremendously important to us because we feel that this is not only a positive impact for a deserving boy, but it is our inherent obligation to do so,” SAE Philanthropy Chairman, Britt Lee, said about the importance of the event.
EAGLES DROP SUN BELT OPENING SERIES TO SOUTH ALABAMA

With guys on second and third and two outs, senior Jordan Wren stepped up to the plate and knocked a hit to left field that was misplayed by the Jaguar left fielder allowing the Eagles to go up 6-5.

The Eagles would tag on two more in the bottom of the eighth and ultimately hold on for a complete 8-5 team victory.

Saturday

Game two turned out to be a rocky road for the Eagles falling to the Jaguars 19-6. The game was highlighted offensively for the Eagles with Jordan Wren smacking his first homerun of the season and having a career high four RBIs, but the downfall on the pitching and defensive end was the big innings produced by the Jaguars, including a 9 run fourth.

Sophomore Brian Eichhorn lasted three and a third innings on the mound giving up seven runs. This loss for the Eagles set up a rubber match in game three against South Alabama.

Sunday

Game three saw the Eagles drop the series 2-1 to the Jaguars, getting blanked 5-0. The downfall for the Eagles in this game was on the offensive side, striking out 13 times and not being able to advance runners.

By Thomas Jilk

The Georgia Southern men’s golf team finished 2nd out of 14 teams - including five ranked in the top 40 nationally - at the Schenkel Invitational in Statesboro this weekend.

Team Rounds

The Forest Heights Country Club hosted No. 2 ranked Vanderbilt and No. 5 ranked Florida among others, both of which the Eagles fought neck-and-neck with until the end.

The Eagles ended up edging Vanderbilt with a final team score of 16-under-par to Vandy’s 15-under-par. The Florida Gators, though, came back in the last round to surpass the Eagles and the Commodores and take first place with an 18-under-par performance.

The 2nd place finish was the Eagles’ third top-5 finish at Schenkel in the last five years.

Individual Rounds

Three GS golfers finished in the top 15 on the individual leaderboard.

GS senior Steven Fisk tied for 15th individually. Fisk placed him tied for 15th individually.

GS junior Archer Price placed tied for 12th overall with a steady tournament of two rounds of 1-under-par 71 and a round of 2-under-par 70.

GS freshman Brett Barron started the tournament with a 5-under-par 67 followed by a 7-under-par 66 - tied for the best round of the tournament by any player in the field. His final round placed him tied for 15th individually. Junior Jake Story shot a final-round 71 to vault himself into the top 30 players at 29th. GS sophomore Crawford Simmons notched a 1-over-par for the tournament, placing him tied for 34th overall.

Vanderbilt’s Patrick Martin took the individual win, shooting a remarkable 12-under-par overall after rounds of 70, 68, and 66.

“It really shows the progress we’ve made this season,” GS head coach Carter Collins said.

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LOSSES PLAGUE END OF MEN’S BASKETBALL SEASON

BY THOMAS JILK

For Eagle loyalists, the men’s basketball season ended in disappointing fashion with an early-round loss to eventual Sun Belt champion Troy in the conference tournament followed by a blowout loss to Utah Valley in the College Basketball Invitational postseason tournament.

SUN BELT TOURNAMENT

On March 10, Troy beat GS 90-70 in New Orleans, then the Trojans went on to win the conference title and earn a No. 15 seed in the NCAA Tournament, where they went on to compete respectively against perennial powerhouse and No. 2 seed Duke.

Against Troy, Georgia Southern struggled to stop the Trojans potent offensive duo of junior guard Wesley Person and sophomore forward Jordon Varnado. Both Person and Varnado scored 26 points. Person was 7-of-8 from 3-point range. Georgia Southern’s early season defensive woes came back to haunt the Eagles as they allowed 60 percent shooting from the field by the Trojans.

For GS, sophomore guard Ike Smith’s 21 points along with sophomore guard Toodie Brown’s 14 and junior guard Mike Hughes’ 12 were not enough to overcome the 90 points the Eagles allowed.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL

Despite the conference tournament loss, Georgia Southern was invited to compete in the College Basketball Invitational, and they were matched up with Utah Valley on March 15 in Statesboro.

The Utah Valley Wolverines of the Western Athletic Conference stifled the Georgia Southern offense en route to a 74-49 win. Utah Valley will face Rice in a CBI quarterfinal game.

The Wolverines were led by junior guard Brandon Randolph and senior guard Jordan Poydras - both of whom scored 12 points. Four Utah Valley players scored in double-figures.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE

The good news for Georgia Southern men’s basketball is that basically the entirety of its statistically contributing roster will return next season. Brown, Smith, and Glenn will be juniors, while Hughes and junior shooting guard Jake Allsmiller will be seniors. The entirety of the GS starting lineup, thus, will be upperclassmen.

These future upperclassmen will have the talent and the experience to again compete for a Sun Belt title. After Smith and Brown finished first and second in the conference in scoring, the prolific guards will emphasize improved defensive consistency looking ahead to next season.

Coach Mark Byington will enter his fifth season at the helm for the Eagles, and he will have his most experienced team yet. The expectations from fans will rightfully be high, and Eagle Nation will be encouraged not by the end of this season, but certainly by numerous performances throughout the season.

At times, the Eagles were a fun-to-watch, dynamic offensive machine capable of outscoring or out-shooting any opponent. Byington and the players will focus on ratcheting up their consistency, and they believe it all starts at the defensive end.

Glenn and junior forward B.J. Gladden should emerge as interior presences, of which Georgia Southern is in dire need. Rebounding, interior defense, and second half defense are areas to improve upon for the Eagles in 2017-2018.

The Eagles will definitely add size with an incoming recruit 7-foot Tyshaun Crawford from Griffin, Georgia. Byington told gseagles.com Marc Gignac that Crawford “has very good hands and will give us a big presence inside and be a defensive force with his shot blocking.”

Size, experience, and a dangerous scoring punch could power Georgia Southern to an even more successful season than their 2016-2017 one, in which their final record was 18-15.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL ENDS SEASON 13-17 OVERALL

BY JERELL RUSHIN

After exiting the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in the first round, Georgia Southern ended the regular season at 13-17 overall.

The fifth-seeded Eagles fell to eleventh-seeded Arkansas State (7-24, 5-15) 61-54. The loss to the Red Wolves was unexpected, as the Red Wolves entered the game next to last in the Sun Belt.

Georgia Southern made drastic improvements during head coach Kip Drown’s second year at the helm. During Drown’s first year at Georgia Southern, the Eagles finished last in the conference standings, notching just four conference wins.

After a slow 4-10 start, it looked as if the bad feelings of last season would carry over into the new season. However, Drown’s team finished in the top half of the Sun Belt standings after finishing the regular season 9-9 in conference.

The women’s basketball program says goodbye to two seniors who were integral parts to the team within the past few years. Both Angel McGowan and Patrice Butler were named to the Sun Belt All-Conference Second Team.

This year’s selection was the second consecutive year of making All-Conference Second Team for McGowan. McGowan was the conference’s third leading scorer with 15.7 points per game.

Butler was fourth in scoring and eighth in rebounding in the Sun Belt. Starting point guard Alexsis Sams also graduates along with forward Jessica Marcus.

The leadership and contributions that Sams, McGowan, and Butler provided as starters will be challenging for Kip Drown and the Eagles to manage.

The large freshman class of five players who joined Georgia Southern in 2016 and the rest of the team will embrace larger roles in the 2017-2018 season. One player cannot replace the production of any of the three starting seniors alone.

Drown has spoken highly of the freshman class and on the difficulty of finding playing time for all of them in the past. With the graduations of the seniors, that task will become a lot easier for him.
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