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NAACP MR AND MISS CROWNED

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GSU TO FACE THE CITADEL

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FORMER PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT GSU

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Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013
Georgia Southern University
www.thegeorgeanne.com
Volume 83 • Issue 54

THE GEORGE-ANNE

GSU looks to deny Dawgs Baseball opens season vs. in-state foe

BY SHAKEEM HOLLOWAY

The George-Anne staff

Coming off a second-straight appearance in the Southern Conference Tournament Championship Game, Georgia Southern University's baseball team will begin its season this weekend with a three-game series against the University of Georgia.

After a slow start to last season, the Eagles won seven of their last 10 games before losing in the SoCon championship game to Samford University.

"I was really proud of our guys last year and the way they finished. Last year's team overcame a lot of adversity along the way, and we really played our best baseball the

last week of the year in Greenville," head coach Rodney Hennon said.

The Eagles have 19 returning letter winners and nine starters (seven position, two rotation) in addition to three redshirts and 10 other new players.

A key returning player is last year's Southern Conference Freshmen of the Year, catcher Chase Griffin.

Griffin batted .320 with 42 RBIs in 55 games and is the first Eagle freshman to hit 10 home runs since Steve Walson hit 12 in 1996.

"Chase had to learn on the go in a lot of ways last year, but I thought we saw a lot of improvement from

See **BASEBALL**, Page 19

Quartet to enchant Foy tonight

BY WILL PEEBLES

The George-Anne staff

The sound of string instruments will fill Foy with love tonight at 7:30 p.m. as Georgia Southern University's Sinfionetta presents a Valentine's Day themed concert.

The faculty concert will feature four selections from the Baroque and Romantic period; four GSU music department instructors will perform inside the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall in the Foy building. The concert will benefit the GSU music department's string scholarship fund.

The four pieces of music selected for the concert pertain to the emotion most applicable on Valentine's Day, love.

"From the beginning of human communication, music has been an essential connector of people," Steven Elisha, director of the Sinfionetta, said. "This world contains people from different countries, backgrounds, genders and

generations; yet throughout all the variables of humanity the one connecting entity is music."

The concert will feature performances from Larisha Elisha on violin, Maestro Adrian Gnam on oboe, Michael Braz on harpsichord and Steven Elisha on cello.

Steven Elisha arranged the Valentine's Day-themed benefit concert to raise support and money for the string department.

"I wanted to start a tradition here in Statesboro by providing a concert on Valentine's Day that would give our community and our university a very special event where people could associate this day devoted with the love of music, particularly string music," Steven Elisha said.

Larisha Elisha, Gnam and Braz will be performing Johann Sebastian Bach's "Concerto for Violin and Oboe."

"I love the concerto. I've done it a number of times

See **FOY CONCERT**, Page 9

EAT MORE KISSES



Tasha Lund/ The George-Anne

Chick-fil-A's mascot is handing out Hershey's kisses at 9:30 a.m. today and is serving up Chick-fil-A heart-shaped biscuits all morning in celebration of Valentine's Day.



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Police Beat

Saturday, Feb. 9

2:32 a.m.: Officers responded to University Villas in reference to an unwanted person. The unwanted person, Bradley David Higgins, 20, was arrested and charged with possession of alcohol under 21 years of age & false I.D.

2:33 a.m.: Officers responded to Freedom's Landing in reference to suspicious persons. An investigation resulted in a motor vehicle accident report being completed.

11:28 p.m.: Officers responded to Eagle Village in reference to an alcohol violation complaint. Three occupants were judicially referred.

Sunday, Feb. 10

1:30 a.m.: Officers responded to the Eagle Village Clubhouse in reference to a sick person. EMS was notified, responded and transported the sick person.

4:39 a.m.: An incident report was taken for criminal trespass at Southern Courtyard. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

12:09 p.m.: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident in the Fine Arts Building parking lot. A motor vehicle accident report was completed.

12:33 p.m.: An incident report was taken for lost or mislaid property at Eagle Village.

4:30 p.m.: Officers responded to the RAC fields in reference to an injured person. EMS was notified and responded but did not transport.

8:33 p.m.: An incident report was taken for found property at the Henderson Library.

Monday, Feb. 11

2:15 p.m. Officers responded to the Foy Building in reference to a report of suspicious activity. An employee reported finding the roof top door opened. This case was turned over to criminal investigations.

2:37 p.m. Officers responded to Centennial Place for a report of a sick person. EMS responded but did not transport.

5:20 p.m. An incident report was taken at Public Safety for found property.

8:19 p.m. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident on Forest Drive. There were no injuries and one driver was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

10:27 p.m. Christopher Jordan Willingham, 18, was arrested and charged with theft by taking and wanted person.

11:59 p.m. Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Biology Building. The facility was checked and a faulty alarm was discovered.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

9:47 a.m. Officers responded

ed to a fire alarm at J.I. Clements Stadium. The facility was checked, and it was determined to be caused by a system malfunction.

9:56 a.m. A vehicle on Forest Drive hit a subject on a bicycle. There were no injuries reported. A motor vehicle accident report was completed.

2:47 p.m. Officers responded to a fire alarm at Building 3 Centennial Place. The facility was checked and it was determined that smoke from a burning candle had caused the alarm. The fire alarm at Centennial Place was an actual fire with smoke and some water damage.

2:50 p.m. An incident report was taken for found property.

3:42 p.m. Officers assisted Statesboro Police Department with an unruly subject at The Cove at Southern.

4:12 p.m. An incident report was taken for a theft at Kennedy Hall. The case was turned over to criminal investigations.

11:20 p.m. An incident report was taken for a case of harassment at Southern Courtyard. The case was turned over to criminal investigations.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

4:33 a.m. An incident report was taken for a theft at the Hanner Fieldhouse. The case was turned over to criminal investigations.

Statement of Operations

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, owned and operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County. The newspaper is a designated public forum for the Georgia Southern community.

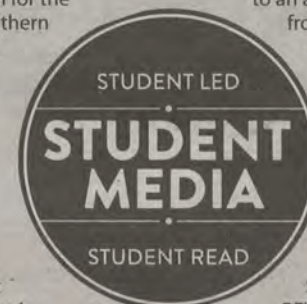
The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor by phone at 912.478.5246 or at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478-0566. Fax any questions to 912.478.7113 or e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee.

The deadline for reserving space and submitting advertising copy is noon, one week prior to the intended publication date. For more information, rate cards, 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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Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

Our View

Tornado prep important for student safety

On Tuesday, we reported on why Georgia Southern University doesn't have drills or an alarm system for tornadoes. The reason given by Tierza Watts, the director of resident education, was that students should know how to respond to a tornado warning by the time they enter college. She also said that new residents are told what each hall's procedures are.

Tornadoes are not uncommon phenomena in this part of the country. Most of us were probably taught what to do in case of a tornado warning in elementary school, but we were also taught what to do in case of fires. According to the article, students are expected to know what to do when they hear a tornado and should warn other students. What makes a tornado alarm unnecessary?

Tornadoes are arguably a greater threat than house fires. A tornado also requires more precautions to ensure safety than a fire does. To assume that students don't need training in the event of a tornado seems very callous, and the lack of an alarm system for that purpose could cause some to worry.

Perhaps GSU could put sirens on top of the emergency call boxes around campus, or work out something with the city. Many cities and towns in Georgia use old air raid sirens to warn people that a tornado has been spotted. There are many solutions; GSU just has to commit to ensuring students' safety in all areas.

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 e-mail in Microsoft Word format to gaeditor@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 Board, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.



The U.S. is being left behind

Every day we hear that the United States is falling behind in something or other: mathematics, science, cost of living, quality of life and, believe it or not, personal freedoms. The only thing that seems to be growing around here is the national debt and congressional egos. The rest of the world seems to be leaving the good ol' U.S. of A behind. We're still on top in a lot of respects, but if we want to keep it for much longer, we're going to have to step up our game as a nation.

The United Nations can't sanction North Korea any more than they already have, and still they persist in researching rockets that can carry a nuke to our shores. The progress that the North is making is scaring even China, their perpetual ally. Kim Jong Un went so far as to declare the U.S. North Korea's greatest enemy, going on and on about aggressive stances and policies. North Korea is treating its people like barely more than cattle. What has the U.S. done is response?

THE COOP SCOOP



TAYLOR COOPER
OPINIONS EDITOR

A whole lot of nothing, despite having the most advanced military on the planet.

Iran is making larger and larger advances toward sending a man to space. They recently managed to send a monkey into orbit and bring it back safely. The nation's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has even said that he'd like to be first to go into space after they've perfected their rocket. Our president? He'd just as soon let the private sector handle all that nerd stuff. This comes along with the news that Russia, our own taxi driver to the stars, has experienced

their first failed launch in years. Not exactly a shining example to the rest of the aerospace community anymore.

The decline in mathematical and scientific skill can be seen not just on the statistics sheets, but here on our own campus as well. How many foreign professors do we have in those fields? A higher number than there are in the more theoretical fields. I have taken one math class and two science classes so far, and none of the professors were American.

The U.S. needs to work its way back to the top. Our current administration isn't doing much to help the cause. When the next election cycle comes around, don't worry so much about the candidates' religion, family values or clothing expenses. Seriously look at what the candidates can do for the country as a whole, not just for you.

Cooper is a junior journalism major from Rincon. He is the Opinions Editor.

There's a reason it's called a minimum wage

Like many Americans, I turned on my television to watch our President speak to us in his annual State of the Union Address on Tuesday night.

There were so many things he said that absolutely floored me that I could probably write a book on this speech alone. But seeing as this is a limited space column I will stick to what really got under my skin the most. In his speech Obama laid out a wish list of liberal policies that made very little sense, but the one that caught me off guard most of all was his initiative to raise the federal minimum wage to \$9 per hour.

I don't think our president really understands how the private sector of our nation's workforce operates. Companies only have a limited amount of funds budgeted to pay employees, and by forcing employers to pay their employees more money they are going to downsize the employee base in order to stay within budget. Common sense should tell him that, but looking back he hasn't worked very hard to pass a budget, so that should say enough about his credibility in that aspect. Many small business owners work between 60 and 70 hours a week just to keep their business alive, working to take home only what is left after all the expenses and the Democrat's increased taxes. Believe me when I say they will not hesitate to lay off employees to make sure that they can afford their own cost of living.

Back in 2007, President Bush passed the last minimum wage increase under pressure from house Democrats. It raised the minimum wage from \$5.15 to what it is now over the course of two years. It reached \$7.25 in mid 2009. If you look back at unemployment records, fall of 2009 was when the unemployment rate was the highest right at 10 percent. Raising the minimum wage right now would almost certainly cause us to lose what progress this economy may have made.

There must be some incentive for employees to work their way up in the work force. Minimum wage jobs are normally meant for teenagers and college students working to pay bills while they go to school and study to get higher paying jobs after college. If people choose to stay and work in unskilled positions then they should receive that minimum pay. This is an equal opportunity society, but there is a huge difference between equal opportunity and equal outcome.

Mutimer is a senior construction management major from Augusta. He is involved in the College Republicans and has worked on political campaigns in Augusta.

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION



BLAIR MUTIMER

Second language beneficial

America loves its reputation of being the best, but with this mindset many neglect the importance of learning about the world outside of the borders of the United States.

One prominent stereotype about Americans is their unwillingness to pursue foreign languages. I like to think that's false, but since I've been living in Georgia I often hear people complain about the prominence of Spanish. Businesses use it alongside English for their notices or signage, there's the option for it on automated phone calls and it becomes more and more common in daily life. Spanish is usually the obvious choice for students wishing to learn a second language. Many also suggest that it should be taught beginning in elementary school.

But whenever the idea of mandatory second-language education in public schools is proposed, it is met with strong opposition. For some reason many feel that this policy would be devaluing English. This is not the case. We expect

FROM THE MARGINS



ADRIANA PULLEY

others to accommodate us because English is considered an international language. But when other people speak broken English we think, "You live in America, learn to speak English," but could we do any better? Probably not. Americans need to see that they are also a part of a global community and should try harder to learn more about the customs, language and culture of the world outside of our borders.

Instituting Spanish or another second language into a child's curriculum won't take away from their English abilities; in fact, it will probably enhance their understanding of how the language works grammatically. Research shows

that learning languages increases mental health and can lengthen attention spans. The ability to speak more than one language increases chances of obtaining a job, it's an interesting characteristic and makes it easier to connect with different people.

Students here should take the opportunity to try another language. At Georgia Southern it is possible to take courses in Arabic, Chinese, French, German and Latin, in addition to Spanish. We also have a sister school in Japan, the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, where you can study Japanese. There are also language clubs on campus that meet weekly or bi-weekly. And if you just want to meet people who are from these regions we have International Club, Cross-Cultural Friendships and International Conversation Hours.

Pulley is a junior English major from Florence, S.C. She has lived in Europe and currently studies German. Adriana is also the vice-president of International Club.

Creating a sustainable future

Last night during the State of the Union address, President Obama spoke about his administration's success concerning the environment and energy independence. After he finished, he called for even more action by Congress to help put the country on a path of true sustainability and efficiency because enough has not been done.

The Republicans believe the devastating storms and sweltering summers we have experienced in the past 12 years are just "weather." They fail to realize the trend that has started to take place. They fail to realize that oceans are rising, summers are drier and hurricanes are stronger. We have to have their votes for new legislation, but they are literally the last group holding back any real change for a sustainable future.

The private sector definitely has begun cashing in on environmental innovation and energy independence. Car companies from Detroit to Japan are looking to create the most environmentally friendly and

A LIBERAL DOSE



CHRIS WARE

technologically advanced vehicles in the world. Chevy has achieved many of their goals through their Chevy Volt and Sequel. Nissan has created a car, the Nissan Leaf, which needs no gas to operate. Their investments in our planet will pay off in the next few years as gas prices increase and people find out how expensive and harmful oil can be. There are also thousands of businesses who are incorporating alternative energy resources in the workplace to meet their energy needs.

Our government needs to recognize global warming as a fact and support research and industries that seek to curb pollution and create marketable

innovative technology that will ensure a safe future for us. Countries around the world are already beginning to fix their pollution problems and we're dragging our feet on possibly the most important issue concerning the 21st century, which is irresponsible to say the least.

It's our responsibility to pressure our leaders to make sure we have common sense laws that protect and preserve our environment. Until we see some action from our state legislature and D.C., we should do our part. Cut down on the waste you produce, use reusable bottles, take shorter showers and use the recycle bins on campus. It's hard to make changes because we've become accustomed to not caring about the environment, but we only have one planet. We can't pack up and move once we've destroyed this one, and that fact should be enough to spark some action.

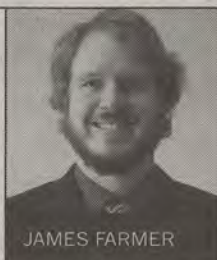
Ware is a freshman political science major from Griffin. He is involved in the Young Democrats.

North Korea tests nuclear bomb and China

North Korea's nuclear bomb test earlier this week has engulfed the diplomatic world. Despite several warnings of the consequences of further nuclear testing, Kim Jong Un urged his state full steam ahead with an underground nuclear test that triggered seismographs in neighboring countries. This nuclear test is a leadership challenge, not to the global hegemony of the USA, but to the People's Republic of China.

As US power in global issues is waning; look at the recent drug decriminalization push in Latin America and the United Nations vote on recognizing a Palestinian state for proof. China is looking to fill whatever voids are emerging in the global power structure. However, North Korea

THE FARM LIFE



JAMES FARMER

conducting nuclear tests in China's own backyard is undermining any claims to global political power that China is trying to promote.

China's response so far has been swifter and sterner than usual. Normally, China tries to delay any Security Council meetings to discuss North Korean issues, but the Security

Council met the day after the test and unanimously denounced the nuclear tests. Beijing sternly opposed the nuclear tests of the government that it has traditionally supported and called in the North Korean ambassador to express exactly how the government felt about the nuclear tests. Reports of the meeting say it wasn't pretty.

China's economic power is clear and obvious, but it is still trying to find its place as the top competitor for global supremacy against the United States. Fortunately for the United States, China's failure to keep its southern neighbor in line undermines China's own regional power, which is a necessary thing to have to be a global power. It would have been hard to take the United

States seriously during its rise to power if Latin America wasn't under its clear control.

There is a lesson we can all take from both the North Korean and Chinese perspective of the nuclear tests. For the North Korean government, we can learn how important it is to not piss off those who look after us. College students who are supported by their parents should pay heed to this part. From the Chinese we can learn how important it is to keep your own house in order before trying to assume more responsibilities.

Farmer is an international studies and political science double-major. He is the current Copy Editor and former Opinions Editor.

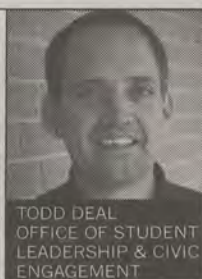
A sincere thanks, GSU community

To the Georgia Southern Community, thank you! On Georgia Day, Feb. 12, our university had the opportunity to host Georgia's native son and daughter, former President and first lady Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.

Despite the pouring rain and steadily dropping temperatures, you filled the Hanner Fieldhouse to capacity to welcome "our" president and first lady. Your quiet attention as they spoke, your ovations and applause and your obvious respect for them as people and as the former first family demonstrated that we are a community built on Georgia Southern V.A.L.U.E.S. and one that is continually striving to learn and grow.

Thank you for your support of the Leadership Lecture Series and for your engagement with the world-class leaders who join us to share their opinions and their lessons on life, leadership and citizenship.

GUEST COLUMN

TODD DEAL
OFFICE OF STUDENT
LEADERSHIP & CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

To paraphrase former President Carter's answer to one of the final questions from Tuesday night, the hallmark of a great leader is holding deeply to your own beliefs, values and ethics, but also listening to and respecting those of others with whom you disagree.

To live that lesson, we must be open to hear from those with whom we may disagree, to consider their opinions and then to work together and use what we learn to craft creative solutions. That is the essence of leadership and is the core purpose of the Leadership Lecture Series. Again, thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Letters to the Editor

The Boy Scouts needs to include all boys

Dear Editor,

Concerning two previous columns written by Taylor Cooper, I need to voice my opinion. I completely agree with Mr. Taylor in his backing of the Boy Scouts of America not changing their national policy on allowing homosexual men and boys to join their organization.

I mean, think about it: The thought of teaching young boys to accept others as they are and to be tolerant is absolutely outlandish. I mean, if his rough, tough group of scouts had a homosexual in it, can you imagine the awkwardness of telling a 7-year-old that one of his fellow troop members is a homosexual? That poor kid, how dare that other kid bring differences into an established organization.

Remember when they allowed blacks, Hispanics and Asians into the Boy Scouts, and how horribly that turned out? Teaching these young kids tolerance and acceptance, it's just awful. He even says it himself: "Any deviation in personality or appearance from the norm was grounds for ridicule."

And he is right, why should young boys' fathers have to explain to them that a real American accepts the deviation and makes it the extraordinary?

But to hell with that crap. I mean why not just let the Boy Scouts keep homosexuals out? It's not like they're discriminating against a minority and pushing them to "the back of the bus" or anything, right?

I mean, this sets precedents for any "kindred virtues"-centered organization to teach young Americans if you're not like everyone else, then you're just not worth it, and you're not good enough. The next thing you know they want equal rights.

So I am proud of you my good man, keep preaching your backwoods, nothing-should-change, different-is-destructive thoughts, and may your message spread. I just hope you're proud of yourself.

William Millians
sophomore biology major
Villa Rica

The Carters share life lessons, advice

BY TAYLER CRITCHLOW

The George-Anne staff

Tuesday night, former President Jimmy Carter and first lady Rosalynn Carter provided students, faculty, staff and Statesboro residents an inside look on their lives both in and out of the White House.

"An Evening with the Carters" was held in Hanner Field House, where the couple spoke on their lives, their beliefs and their philanthropies.

"I wanted to use my knowledge, influence and background for the benefit of other people," President Carter said.

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and the Office of Student Leadership & Civic Engagement hosted the event as a part of the Leadership Lecture Series.

The Carters had a strong stance on education.

"Education will be a prime theme, it constantly lets us be more able to



Andy Morales/ The George-Anne

Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter spoke at Hanner Fieldhouse Tuesday night as part of the Leadership Lecture Series.

do whatever we can in the use of intelligence," President Carter said.

"(You) never know what the future holds, so study hard and be prepared," former first lady Rosalynn Carter said.

The two spoke about their childhood growing up in rural Georgia.

President Carter grew up with his neighbors, his leaders and his

inspirations being African-American, and this fostered in him a strong sense for human rights, he said.

If it had not been for Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr. and their movements, he never would have been considered for President, President Carter said.

"We need a country that depends on and champions human rights,"

President Carter said.

The president and other leaders need to try to reach out to the other side and try to understand them and not spend as much time blaming the opposite party whenever something goes wrong or does not get done, President Carter said.

The Carters told the audience about their philanthropies and work after they left the White House.

"Look at all of the service they have done for the world post-White House. It's just an honor, and it's a huge gift for us," Casey Jones, assistant administrative director in the Office of Marketing and Communications, said.

The Carters spoke about their avocation for peace and their humanitarian projects, such as The Carter Center.

The Carter Center also searches for cures in mental illness and numerous other diseases.

"Always advise the young people who can't get a job when they come out to join the Peace Corps. Take two

or two and a half years, learn a foreign language and then when you come back, you have an almost sure way of getting a job because every employer in the country almost wants to have alumni of the Peace Corps, and so that's a good way to stretch your hearts, doing good things for other, people doing good things for yourself, and it gives you a couple years to just mature," President Carter said.

Having speakers like the Carters is a good way for students to get back what they have given to GSU, Jones said.

"The names that (GSU) gets here is astonishing, and it's a great way they use the fees that the students here pay. It's good to see a return on your investment when you get to hear from these world leaders, U.S. leaders and get to spend an hour, hour and a half with them. It's just a great exposure for everyone to be part of something like this," Jones said.

President Carter said, "Georgia Southern has made me proud as a President and as a Georgian."

New research institute to study coast

BY ALANNA NAVIN

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University will soon be welcoming a new research institute, which will be focusing on coastal plain region.

The new institute will house research that focuses on the natural resources of the coastal plain as well as direct human impact, Dr. Daniel Gleason, professor of biology, said.

The new institute will be looking at the region southeast of the fault line that runs from Augusta through Macon and into Columbus. The fault line represents the ancient Georgia coastline, Gleason said.

The fault line is composed of a mixture of sedimentary rock that developed during the Cretaceous period.

"The geology and the biology above the fault line and below the fault line are very

different. Down here we have a very different environment than in north Georgia like you see when you get up around Atlanta," Gleason said.

The research initiative is pretty important considering GSU is near Savannah and Tybee Island and that many people love the coastal areas, Eli O'Cain, senior biology major said.

O'Cain's research focuses on the effects of boat docks on salt marsh invertebrates.

"I'm really interested in how humans affect coastal ecosystems and how we can reduce our impact," O'Cain said.

"There are really no major universities



DANIEL GLEASON

in this region that are really involved in research, really concerned about the natural resources of this region. So we thought we would fill that niche," Gleason said.

GSU is starting to get some competition from other institutions in the surrounding regions, such as the University of North Florida and Coastal Carolina University's expanding coastal research branch, Gleason said.

"If there are natural resource issues that are important to this region, we want people to come to us instead of, let's say, UGA or Georgia Tech," Gleason said.

"Hopefully it will foster opportunities for students and also faculty," Gleason said.

Recently, other founders of the institute just developed a memorandum of understanding, known as a MOU, with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Atlanta. That MOU will provide internships for students and bring collaborative research

opportunities for faculty, possibly some grants, Gleason said.

"It's great for students because they will be able to go and spend a summer working at the EPA, those that have an interest in the environmental aspects," Gleason said.

The new research institute will bring together faculty from multiple disciplines here at GSU such as biology, chemistry, geology, geography and public health. Together they will be focusing on the coastal plain geographic area, Gleason said.

"We want it to be a very interdisciplinary group," Gleason said.

Currently, there is an active search looking for a director for the coastal plain research. One should be in place this coming summer. Once a director is in place the institute will really begin to develop, Gleason said.

Gleason said, "We've got good faculty, good students. We have graduate students that do high quality work."

Run to benefit soldiers

BY BRAVURA BANKS

The George-Anne contributor

Registration for 91.9 The Buzz's fourth annual "Crawl, Walk or Run" race will open Feb. 15 for the April 20 event.

The race will consist of a 5k and 10k run, according to the Georgia Southern University news release, and will benefit Snacks for Soldiers, according to the GSU website.

Registration, which includes a take-home bag, a t-shirt, water and snacks during the race and potentially an award, is \$20. It will be \$30 after April 13 and \$40 the day of the race.

Individuals who participate must sign a waiver and are only allowed to run in one race category.

The Pre-Race Pasta Party is Friday, April 19 from 5:30 until 8:30 in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center Ballroom and is open to all race participants for free,



Photo courtesy of Georgiasouthern.edu

according to the news release.

Students can register for the run on the GSU webpage.



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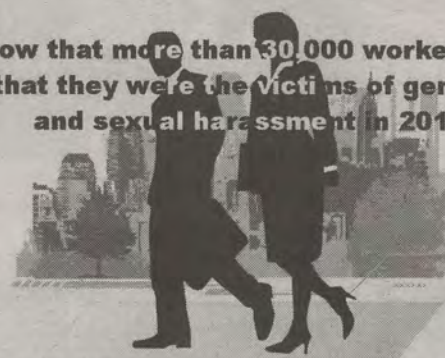
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2013 Employment Law Symposium

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Please join us for a discussion of gender discrimination and sexual harassment in today's workplace, the potential impact of these behaviors, and recent actions the EEOC and federal courts have taken for employees who are victims of discriminatory practices. A panel of esteemed professionals will discuss experiences with gender discrimination or sexual harassment that they have themselves encountered throughout their careers. Students will have an opportunity to meet with the panelists as well as GSU faculty members who are currently researching and writing about gender issues.

February 25th
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
College of Information Technology
Room 1004



Sponsored by COBA and
The Center for Fraud & Forensic Studies
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NAACP PAGEANT



Jessica Stanfield/The George-Anne

The NAACP organization on Georgia Southern University's campus hosted its first pageant last night with three female and three male contestants. Morgan Brown, junior special education major, and Solomon Crawford, junior biology major, were crowned Mr and Miss NAACP. **Top left:** Stanley Lewis spices up an "Elise" piano piece during the talent portion of the NAACP Pageant. **Top middle:** Morgan Brown was crowned as the first NAACP Queen at Georgia Southern University on Wednesday night. **Top right:** Two of the contestants perform during the talent portion of the pageant. **Bottom:** Solomon Crawford received a trophy after being named the first NAACP King Wednesday night.

FOY CONCERT, from page 1

before, and it has a lot of lyrical moments. The second movement especially is very much a romantic sounding piece, and that fits the theme very well," Gnam said.

Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, "Adagio," from Boccherini's Cello Concerto and Mendelssohn's "Sinfonia No. 4" will also be performed.

"They all have associations with the idea of love. The first Bach concerto is a duet. The oboe is a very soulful

instrument, and the violin is the instrument most associated with love and passion," Steven Elisha said.

Steven Elisha hopes to make the event an annual occurrence, in an effort to raise community support of the arts and the Georgia Southern orchestra program.

Steven Elisha said, "This concert is one of hopefully many that will provide GSU and Statesboro with a true meaningful experience of the artistry of our wonderful faculty here, and to show that we must continually develop this program so that it may thrive."

Wellness Week to focus on health and fitness

BY GRACE HUSETH

The George-Anne staff

Health-related activities and the role of food in wellness will be held during the annual Wellness Week on Feb. 18-22.

Wellness Week was created by the

University Wellness program as a collaboration of events offered by different departments outside of the University Wellness Program. While the week focuses on many dimensions of wellness, there are four events that promote healthy eating for wellness: Screen on the Green, the LiveWell

Fair and Empty Bowl Project and the SUPER Chef competition.

This diverse perspective shows multifaceted wellness and how it affects every part of our lives, ShoVonda Sewell, University Wellness graduate assistant, said.

"Wellness Week is about learning how to

live well outside of the stereotypical wellness campaigns," Sewell said.

Michelle Martin, director of University Wellness, said, a new system of passports will be handed out during the Block Party for those interested in attending the LiveWell Fair.

LiveWell Fair and Empty Bowl Project

The LiveWell Fair is a combination of 50 vendors where students can discuss wellness and learn how they can utilize health related student organizations on campus. Students who visit a variety of vendors will receive a free t-shirt, Martin said.

The annual LiveWell Fair will take place on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Russell Union. This year it will be complimented by the recurrence of the Empty Bowl Project, which will be held at the same time in the Rotunda, Martin said.

Students can support the Empty Bowl Project by purchasing a hand-painted bowl of chili outside near the Rotunda. The Empty Bowl Project is held annually in the fall but will be featured during Wellness Week to raise awareness on the impact hunger has on healthful living, Martin said.

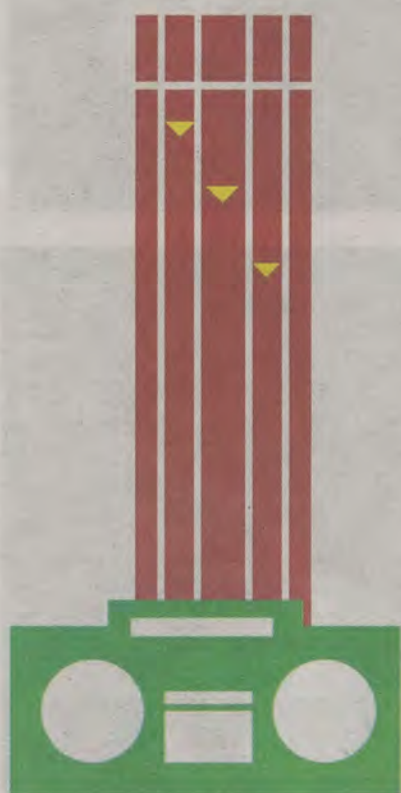
"These bowls have very intricate details that we haven't seen in the fall event. There are lots of Georgia Southern bowls, and I recently saw a paisley bowl. People are getting really creative," Martin said.

Screen on the Green

The documentary "Forks over Knives" will play at Sweetheart Circle Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. "Forks over Knives" challenges the public to examine what portion of their diet come from meat or animal based products and compares it to a diet based on whole foods, Martin said.

"I've been toying around with the idea of vegetarianism for myself, and it had a profound impact on me. It was the most thought provoking documentary on food and health," Martin said.

Showing this documentary kept coming up in conversation with faculty and students, and it seemed to be intriguing to them, Martin said.



Block Party

Wellness Week will kick off tomorrow with a block party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rotunda. At this event students will see a preview of the kind of events that will take place and win prizes, Martin said.

There will be food, music, face painting and a chair massage. The GSU Store will have a pop-up store with bright clothing to keep with the festive theme of "glow" week, Martin said.

Students should take advantage of the activities featured in this week and learn more about healthy eating, Mary Noreika, freshman early childhood education major, said.

"Wellness Week is a good idea. It's hard to stay healthy when you are a freshman and getting used to everything," Noreika said.



SUPER Chef

SUPER Chef is a culinary competition that will be held outside the Russell Union Ballroom Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Students will compete with certified chefs from Eagle Dining Services, Sewell said.

"SUPER Chef allows students to dig into that inner interest of trying something new," Sewell said.

Contestants will be given a secret ingredient they must cook with, which will allow students to experiment and challenge themselves, Sewell said.



NYC Fashion Week comes to Statesboro

Fashion

BY LINDSEY MCCORMICK
The George-Anne staff

The streets and avenues of New York City will take over Georgia Southern University's campus as colorful chiffon dresses, fur coats and leather waltz off the cat walk and into local retail shops in the 'Boro.

Hundreds of designers and models have gathered at the Lincoln Center to put on one of the biggest fashion shows of the year during NYC's Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week.

Today is the last day of Fashion Week that has been ongoing since last Thursday. With over 130 designer collections to choose from, many items featured in fashion week are unobtainable. However, there are ways to get similar looks and add them to your college wardrobe.

THOUGHTS ON THREADS



LINDSEY MCCORMICK
FASHION REPORTER

Some of the more recognizable designers include Michael Kors, Diane Von Furstenburg, Juicy Couture, Whitney Eve and Calvin Klein. Project Runway even did a show with some of the clothing from this season.

There were many reoccurring themes this week as the runway moved from designer to designer. Perhaps the most common theme was the way that the designers are incorporating a more conservative style into their clothing.

This has been a trend even in local boutiques and stores in Statesboro. Peplum tops and off-the-shoulder dresses are great examples of this theme.



Andy Morales/The George-Anne

Entourage sells printed maxi dresses that are similar to what appeared during NYC fashion week.

Betsey Johnson showed up with her usual spunk and bold collections. Johnson along with Mara Hoffman reaffirmed that bright colors, unique patterns and metallics aren't going out

of style anytime soon; no matter what season it is.

Their models were dressed in vibrant colored pants and different printed dresses and tops. A way that students can achieve this look is to wear a pair of patterned skinny jeans that have been seen everywhere lately, including Statesboro's Entourage Boutique. Maxi skirts and dresses with colorful prints from Entourage are other ways to do this. They have a wide selection of dresses for \$40 or less.

"I feel like a lot of luxury designers had that 'Downton Abbey' feel; their clothes have had neat vintage patterns," Leah Vanvalkenburgh, senior fashion merchandising major said.

A\$AP Rocky was seen sporting a leather look from the underground collection Hood By Air. Leather has been a consistent favorite all season long. Almost all of the fashion week

collections had some use of leather in their designs.

Leather skirts, pants, dresses and leggings are all currently on the market in affordable stores like TJ Maxx and Evelyn's Boutique next to Mellow Mushroom. A lot of these leather looks have been seen around Statesboro nightlife, but from my observations, leather leggings take the crown.

"Personally I don't like leather that much, but the seventies-feel is coming back into style with a lot of bright purples and yellows," Vanvalkenburgh said.

Valentine's Day wraps up the first week of Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, which will be on its way to London soon. It could be the fact that it's V-day, but the Calvin Klein men's collection will be the last to walk the runway at 3 p.m. Lucky for the ladies, they saved the best for last.

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THURSDAY

Retrievers

✓ DJ Animosity
 Y Happy hour 5 to 8 p.m.
 \$1.50 Miller, Coors, PBR
 and High Life
 \$2 shots, \$2.50 bombs,
 \$3 doubles, \$4.50
 quads, \$8 Liquor pitch-
 ers

Gata's

Y Happy Hour 5 to 8 p.m.
 Beer special
 \$1 shots, \$2 Tall boys,

\$2 Vodkas
 Toofur menu
 ✓ Chuckie P

Mellow Mushroom

Y Happy Hour 5 to 7 p.m.
 \$3 House Wine Glass, \$3
 Wells, \$2 rotating pint
 beer, \$2.75 draft pints

Dingus Magee's

V-Day specials
 \$2 Valentine shots, \$10
 bottle of champagne,
 \$3 wine, \$4 Jenny
 cream

Loco's

\$2 Pints
 ✓ Coty Marsh

El Sombrero

Y Happy hour 5-7 p.m.
 \$2.50 domestic beer

Millhouse

\$2 wells, \$2 margarita
 on the rocks, \$2 draft
 beer, \$2.50 House wine
 \$2 domestic bottle 10
 p.m. to midnight
 ✓ Gary Byrd

FRIDAY

Retrievers

✓ DJ Hurricane
 Y Happy hour 5 to 8
 p.m.
 \$1.50 Miller, Coors,
 PBR and High Life
 \$2 shots, \$2.50
 bombs, \$3 doubles,
 \$4.50 quads, \$8
 Liquor pitchers

Gata's

Y Happy Hour 5 to

8 p.m.
 Beer special
 \$1 shots, \$2 Tall
 boys, \$2 Vodkas
 Toofur menu
 ✓ Dirty Georgia Brew

Dingus

✓ Andrew James

Loco's

\$4 Crown
 ✓ Jason Lamson

Millhouse

\$2 wells, \$2 mar-
 garita on the rocks,
 \$2 draft beer, \$2.50
 House wine, \$2 do-
 mestic bottle 10p.m.
 to midnight
 ✓ P B & J

El Sombrero

Y Happy hour 5 to 7
 p.m.
 \$3 sex on the beach

SATURDAY

Retrievers

✓ DJ Animosity
 Y Happy hour 5 to 8 p.m.
 \$1.50 Miller, Coors, PBR
 and High Life
 \$2 shots, \$2.50 bombs,
 \$3 doubles, \$4.50
 quads, \$8 Liquor pitch-
 ers

Gata's

Y Happy Hour 5 to 8 p.m.
 Beer special
 \$1 shots, \$2 Tall boys,

\$2 Vodkas
 Toofur menu
 ✓ The Hell Hounds

Dingus

✓ Blurry Aftermath

Locos

\$6 miller lite pitchers,
 \$4 bombs
 ✓ Jason White

Millhouse

\$2 wells, \$2 margarita
 on the rocks, \$2 draft
 beer, \$2.50 House wine
 \$2 domestic bottle 10

p.m. to midnight
 Live DJ

Holiday's

2 medium pizzas with 1
 topping \$10.99
 2 medium pizzas with 2
 toppings \$12.99
 2 medium pizzas with 3
 toppings \$14.99
 2 medium pizzas with 4
 toppings \$16.99

El Sombrero

Y Happy hour 5 to 7 p.m.
 \$2 lime margarita, \$3
 Bloody Mary

SUNDAY

Holiday's

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 ping \$10.99
 2 medium pizzas with 2 top-
 pings \$12.99
 2 medium pizzas with 3 top-
 pings \$14.99
 2 medium pizzas with 4 top-
 pings \$16.99

Gnat's Landing

Y All day happy hour
 45¢ wings

Loco's

Absolut build-your-own
 bloody mary bar 12:30 to 3
 p.m.

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WEEKLY BUZZ

A weekly calendar listing sponsored by The Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

FEB. 14 - FEB. 20

THURSDAY 2.14.2013

NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

FRIDAY 2.15.2013

2-5 P.M.

OPEN HIGH CHALLENGE COURSE

THE RAC

As a part of the program, we will introduce you to the equipment and show you how to use it. The full static course ends with a zip line that sends you through our beautiful pine forest.

6 P.M. AND 8 P.M.

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMING BOARD MOVIE RUSSELL UNION THEATER

The University Programming Board sponsors a weekly movie series every Friday in the Russell Union Theater. You can enjoy the newest, hottest and most popular pre-home releases for free with concessions going for as little as \$1 each, you can't beat the value of UPB Cinema. Make sure to bring your Eagle ID.

SATURDAY 2.16.2013

CLUB SPORTS HOME GAMES

THE RAC

Come to the RAC to watch and support Georgia Southern's various club sports teams

Baseball VS Georgia Gwinnett: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse VS Georgia State: 2 - 4 p.m.

Men's Rugby VS Memphis: 7 - 9 p.m.

SUNDAY 2.17.2013

CLUB SPORTS HOME GAMES

THE RAC

Come to the RAC to watch and support Georgia Southern's various club sports teams

Men's Lacrosse VS St. Andrews: 3 - 4 p.m.



MONDAY 2.18.2013

WELLNESS WEEK BEGINS

Pledge to be well. Our University Wellness Program is helping students to reveal their inner child, promote healthy body images, learn about the consequences to being dishonest and putting themselves in danger's path and more.

TUESDAY 2.19.2013

REGISTRATION CLOSES: INNER TUBE WATER POLO

With an entry fee of only \$15, don't miss out on a chance to get involved with intramurals and play some inner tube water polo. Your last chance to sign up is this date before 8 p.m.

6:30- 8:30 P.M.

UNPLUGGED

RUSSELL UNION COMMONS

The University Programming Board invites you to our weekly Unplugged Series! Looking for something fun to do on campus? Want to watch some live performers? Maybe even want to try out that new song of yours? Georgia Southern Unplugged is a coffeehouse series/Open Mic Night held in the Russell Union Commons. Come see the talented students of Georgia Southern showcase their skills. Free Starbucks coffee for attendees. Don't forget to bring your Eagle ID.

5-9 P.M.

CPR ADULT/CHILD/INFANT WITH AED

THE RAC

This class will teach you how to perform ventilations, chest compressions, how to provide aid to someone choking and more. With successful completion of this class, you will obtain an American Red Cross CPR Adult, Child and Infant with AED certification valid for 2 years for only \$35.

WEDNESDAY 2.20.2013

5-8 P.M.

FIRST AID

THE RAC

For this \$35 three hour course, you can learn how to care for someone who is having a seizure, how to control external bleeding, how to aid victims of bone injuries and more.

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

LIVEWELL FAIR

RUSSELL UNION

Stop by the LiveWell Fair to visit on and off campus organization representing each of the seven dimensions of wellness. Visit various vendors to receive a Wellness Week t-shirt!



8 P.M.

INNER TUBE WATER POLO FREE PLAY

THE RAC

Splash around the pool with a friendly game of water polo! Don't worry if you are not a good swimmer because a nifty inner tube will keep you afloat during all the action! Free Play from 8 - 10 p.m.

Student Affairs
Enrollment
Management

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CLASSIFIEDS

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14 Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013

The George-Anne

Miscellaneous

Attn: IT/Webpage intern student; I need assistance with a "Wordpress" web-page setup. Time needed: not sure. A professional product is mandatory. Only student with IT/Webpage knowledge and a need for \$\$ need apply. Please send personal info to: gb00812@georgiasouthern.edu *No resumes, please! Job is just temporary!

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Housing

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1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 bedroom houses for rent. Repairs in 24 hours. Contact 912-682-7468 or 912-764-6076. Available August 1, 2013.

Housing

Summer 2013 sublease available for a female in Campus Crossing. Located right across from GSU bus stop. The 3 bedroom apartment is nice and cozy with a nice size bedroom and bath with everything inclusive. The space will practically be empty during the summer so no roommates to worry about. Rent will be around \$395 for June and July but price is negotiable. Contact Alexis Flen at af02017@georgiasouthern.edu.

Male sublease available at The Pointe. 4 BR/4BT. Two rooms available. One at \$369 / month and one at \$385 / month, utilities included. Fully furnished, washer/dryer, great roommates, close to campus. Property includes pool, gym, tanning bed, computer lab, basketball/volleyball court. Contact Brian at 706-399-1860 or bb01693@georgiasouthern.edu.

Housing

Female sublease available for Summer 2013 in Campus Crossings. 3B/3B - one room available. Rent is only \$494/month with utilities, cable included! May's rent already paid! Two great roommates! With a spacious bedroom and closet. Personla bathroom as well. Contact Lindsay Barnette with more info. Call/Text 404-401-3752. Email lb02542@georgiasouthern.edu.

Sublease at The Exchange available now! The Co-ed apartment has 4 bedroom/bathrooms and is fully furnished. Rent is \$440 a month and includes utilities, internet and cable. February rent is paid for, and willing to negotiate price. For more info call or text Ashley at (770)364-8262.

Housing

Current lease available. 4 bed, 2 bath in University Pines. Rent is \$409 a month and January has already been paid for. If someone is interested they can contact me at 404-217-4789 or email me at ac06009@georgiasouthern.edu.

Looking for 6 month lease for the Fall 2013. Will take 2-4 bedroom apartments or house. Looking for a place close to campus. Furnished or unfurnished. Hopefully trying to get some where that is affordable. If you know of a place that fills these demands please email ja03261@georgiasouthern.edu.

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 - b. Retail Management and sales
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 - ii. Coch
 - iii. Target
 - iv. Belk

v. Toys r us

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"Check-out Career Services; everything that we have is given to us on a silver-platter"

"Explore your options"



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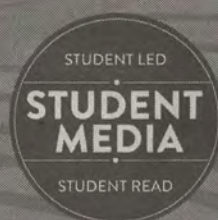
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GSU looks to snap losing streak

Men's Basketball (9-12)

BY KATIE TOLBERT

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University's men's basketball (10-15) team will be back on the road to play The Citadel (6-17) today at 7:05 p.m. and the College of Charleston (18-7) Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

The Eagles just wrapped up three home games, but they are coming off of an overtime loss to Appalachian State University and another loss to Western Carolina University. GSU struggled with shooting during both of these games and faced two strong defenses as well. CofC has a record to scare any Southern Conference team right now, and GSU is one of its seven losses. On the other hand, one of GSU's losses is to the The Citadel, which has

a less impressive record to show.

GSU will take on the Bulldogs first, and in this game, the Eagles will need to strongly focus on defense.

The Eagles have outrebounded the Bulldogs by 91 and have 31 fewer turnovers than the Bulldogs. Another focus for the Eagles in this game should be defending the goal against the Bulldogs' two top scorers. The Citadel's leading scorer has shot zero percent from behind the arc and the second leading scorer has shot 38 percent from behind the arc, so the Eagles should push the Bulldogs to shoot further out by defending the lane.

With only one full day of rest, the Eagles will have to gear up again to face the Cougars. In the previous matchup between these two teams, the shooting was equally under par at 34 percent from the field overall. The

Cougars outshot the Eagles in the first half, but the Eagles brought back a lot of energy in the second half with an increase of 20 percent from behind the arc and an increase

of 16.4 percent from the field. The Eagles will need to show the same energy in both halves of this game in order to take down CofC for the second time this season.



Chad Kenney/ The George-Anne

Junior forward Eric Ferguson (3) hustles up the court after a change of possession against App. State. He is currently the Eagles' leading scorer.

Compare the Stats

	#	Name	Avg. Points per Game
Georgia Southern	03	Eric Ferguson	14.3
	24	C.J. Reed	13.0
	11	Tre Bussey	9.4
	00	Cleon Roberts	8.5
	10	Marvin Baynham	4.6
The Citadel	31	Mike Groselle	15.1
	30	Matt Van Scyoc	11.4
	44	P.J. Horgan	10.5
	12	Ashton Moore	6.8
	24	Lawrence Miller	6.5

Eagles to rematch against Bulldogs

Women's Basketball (4-18)

BY COLIN RITSICK

The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University women's basketball team will host Southern Conference rival Samford University in primetime on Saturday night in Hanner Fieldhouse.

The Eagles and the Bulldogs have met once before this season at Samford with GSU being on the wrong end of a 56-41 loss. The key to that game will be the key to this game, and that is shooting percentage.

GSU had one of its worst nights from the field, making only 24.5 percent of its shots, while the Bulldogs shot an efficient 44 percent that allowed Samford to cruise to victory.

These statistics parallel the numbers put up by both teams throughout the entire season.

The Bulldogs consistently make about 38 percent of the shots compared to the 33 percent average for the Eagles.

Shooting efficiency will be a big deciding factor in this game, particularly the shooting efficiency from the top two scorers for GSU.

Junior guard Mimi DuBose and sophomore guard Anna Claire Knight are the only two players on the team that average double digits in points per game:

DuBose with 13.9 points per game and Knight with 10.2 points per game.

DuBose makes the most shots for the Eagles but she also takes the most shots. Her shooting efficiency on Saturday may very well indicate how the game turns out for GSU.

Another matchup to look for is going to be how well the Eagles defense can stifle a team that relies on its three-point shooting.

GSU has been effective in its perimeter defending this season, only allowing opposing teams a three-point shooting percentage of 26 percent.

However, the Bulldogs are very efficient from beyond the arc. Samford is making 38 percent of the threes that the team takes, or seven per game.

Tip-off is set for 7:00 p.m.



Andy Morales/The George-Anne

Junior guard Mimi DuBose (33) battles against a CofC defender. DuBose is the leading scorer for the Eagles with 13.9 average points per game.

Interested in Management? Attend this event and learn more!

"Human Capital and Competitive Advantage"

COBA will host **Dr. Jay B. Barney**, Presidential Professor of Strategic Management and Pierre Lasseonde Chair of Social Entrepreneurship in the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah.

Monday, February 25, 2013
4:00 p.m-5:30 p.m.
College of Education Auditorium

This event is free and
open to the public.





Tasha Lund/The George-Anne

The Georgia Southern University baseball team is set to open its season against the University of Georgia on Friday. The team has held several scrimmage games in preparation to start its season.

BASEBALL, from page 1

him," Hennon said. "He has continued to make progress defensively and with the bat. He gives us some leadership out there. He is a hard-nosed player and sets the tone for us in a lot of ways."

The Eagles are returning almost the entire infield from last season, except for Eric Phillips, GSU's all-time hits leader who was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the sixth round.

Senior T.D. Davis, who batted .308 and had 34 RBIs last season, is returning to go along with sophomore Tyler Avera, who batted .283 and had 27 RBIs.

"Tyler Avera had an outstanding year as a true freshman at second base for us last year. He has learned a lot from that experience," Hennon said. "Over at first base we saw T.D. really gain some confidence as the season went along, and he really became a big part of our middle of the order."

Senior Scooter Williams leads the returning outfield that has added more depth after Victor Roache missed all but six games of last season before being drafted in

the first round by the Milwaukee Brewers.

"We have more overall depth in the outfield, and I think we are very athletic out there. We have some speed and some arm strength as well," Hennon said.

As for the pitching rotation, senior starter Justin Hess is returning after posting a 5-3 record in 14 starts with a 3.76 ERA.

"For the second half of the season, Justin was probably our most effective pitcher. We really started to solidify our rotation last year once we stayed with him in the rotation," Hennon said.

The Eagles posted their lowest ERA since 2004 and also finished third in the SoCon with 476 strikeouts. Unfortunately, Will Middour will be out for the season due to Tommy John surgery.

The Eagles will, however, have their closer Kyle Rowe back. Rowe was second on the team a year ago with six saves and posted a 6-2 record with a 4.41 ERA in 25 games.

After beginning its season at home tomorrow against UGA at 6 p.m., GSU will compete in a three-game series set to take up the entire weekend.



INVISALIGN® SPECIAL EVENT

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Eagles look to continue hot start

GSU softball to play doubleheader in the Sunshine State



Demario Cullars/The George-Anne

Freshman infielder Lindsey Wilcox (4) looks to throw a Tennessee Tech runner out during last weekend's game. The Eagles softball team went 3-1 in the opening weekend of its season.

Softball (3-1)

BY RANDALL HAMPTON

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University's softball team will take its talents to Fort Myers, Fla. on Friday for a doubleheader with Southern Illinois University and Wichita State University.

The ladies will step away from the friendly confines of Eagle Field for the first time this season. Last season in neutral site games GSU went 6-6, this season GSU will be looking to improve on that .500 winning percentage.

The Eagles will open up the double-dip at 11:15 a.m. against Southern Illinois University. SIU is 3-2 on the season and has shown some vulnerability.

SIU has given up 16 runs in five games and got embarrassed 9-0 by Virginia Tech in its last game.

GSU cannot afford to look past SIU because the team was picked as a co-favorite to win the Missouri Valley Conference in the MVC Preseason Coaches Poll.

SIU is struggling offensively and unfortunately for it standing in the pitcher's circle will be Southern Conference Pitcher of the Week junior Sarah Purvis.

Last weekend Purvis sent 31 batters back to the dugout with sad faces while posting an ERA of 1.11.

The Eagles will be back on the field before the dust settles to get it on with the Shockers of WSU at 3:45 p.m. WSU is 1-3 this season and the team has not been consistent during this young season.

In all three losses WSU could only score one run, but in its only win this season the Shockers defeated Grambling State University 8-0.

The pendulum of success swings back and forth between dominance and incompetence for WSU. The team is coming off consecutive 3-1 losses, and it is uncertain which team will show up to take on GSU.

The pitching staff of WSU is going to have to deal with junior infielders Kourtney Thomas and Shelby Morrill. Both are hitting at least .400, and Thomas also has 2 homeruns.

GSU has outscored opponents 7-1 in the first two innings of games. The Eagles' ability to pounce on the opposition early allows a pitcher like Purvis to settle into her groove.

The double header on Friday is just the appetizer for the two games GSU will play on Saturday against SIU again and then against the University of Alabama.

The game against the University of Alabama could prove to be the toughest game of the weekend. Alabama is ranked second in the ESPN/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25.

The Tide has rolled to a 5-0 record while putting up over eight runs a game. UA has a team batting average of .384 with two players hitting over .700.

If Purvis is in the pitcher's circle against UA, a matchup to watch will be her battling UA freshman outfielder Haylie McCleney. McCleney is hitting .722 and leads the team with 17 at-bats.

The ladies will end the weekend with a Sunday showdown against Florida Gulf Coast University. FGCU opened its season up on Wednesday with a doubleheader against Florida International University.

Sunday, GSU will have a chance to show FGCU who the best eagles on the field really are.