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GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

RIVALRY RENEWED

IN STATE BRAWL
BECOMES TOP-OF-THE
CONFERENCE DUEL
SEE STORY ON PAGE 7

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPS

City campus draws
map for new S. Main
renovations **SEE PAGE 5**

WELCOME TO GSU

Football welcomes
22 new signees to
the 2015 roster
SEE PAGE 11

UNSUNG HEROES

Meet some of the
people who keep the
campus alive & well
SEE PAGE 14

GSU to host first U.S. World Universities Forum

BY JOZSEF PAPP

The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University will host "The Eight World Universities Forum" at the Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm St. in downtown Savannah today and tomorrow.

This will be the first World Universities Forum (WUF) to be hosted in the United States. More than 30 countries will be represented at the international gathering of global scholars and policymakers to examine the role and future of the university in a changing world.

Devon Jensen, Ph.D., an interim associate dean of Georgia Southern's Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies, will be a speaker at the forum. Jensen is a member of WUF's advisory board and has researched, taught and studied Higher Education Leadership topics for more than a decade.

"I am excited to have this international group of educators, scholars and leaders come to Savannah to explore and discuss the important higher education questions and challenges of our day," Jensen said.

This day in Black History

BY CHRIS ROSSMANN

The George-Anne staff



On this day in history, Henry "Hank" Aaron was born in Mobile, Alabama in 1934.

Aaron is most famous for hitting 755 home runs over the course of his career, an MLB record that stood for 33 years. Aaron managed to set the record amid death threats from fans against a black man breaking the most prestigious record in baseball.

He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1982.

Men's tennis acquires new head coach

BY ARAYA JACKSON

The George-Anne Staff

Director of Athletics, Tom Kleinlein, announced Alexander 'Sander' Koning as Georgia Southern's new head coach for men's tennis on Monday.

Koning comes to Georgia Southern with years of experience in coaching and playing from all over the world, in both collegiate and professional levels.

"I like the ambitious goals set by the Georgia Southern athletics department, and I want to help the men's tennis program exceed expectations and bring it to new heights," Koning said.

Koning was a student athlete and volunteer assistant coach at Clemson University, the assistant men's tennis coach at Old Dominion University from 2011-14, and most recently served as assistant men's tennis coach at Indiana University. He has also worked for the KNLTB (Dutch Tennis Federation) and has recruited throughout the United States and Europe.

WEATHER BAR

Friday



High: 52°
Low: 29°

Saturday



High: 64°
Low: 39°

Sunday



High: 69°
Low: 50°

WEATHER PENGUINS



WOW...

SHE'S EVEN PRETTIER THAN THE WEATHER!



Christian Mathew

@liveboi I guess dreams really do come true

@CoachWEFritz Fired up to get my man @LookatJMoon to the 'Boro! Keep your head on a swivel, because this guy will strike you! #GATA

@obe_beast Proud to say that I will be attending Georgia Southern University!!! #HailSouthern #SouthernNotState #kliq25 (Obe Fortune)

@GSathletics FB Football Adds 22 to Roster on National Signing Day

thecirclegsu.com



Kelly "K-Pope" Pope
Logistics

Christman "Chrismal" May
Psychology

Adam Silcox
Marketing/Logistics

Gerrick Muse
Networking/IT

Student Spotlight: Spoonfed Thoughts Podcast

Shot and edited by Jordan Felton

Spoonfed Thoughts is a podcast that was started by four Statesboro students last semester. In their podcast, K-Pope, Chrismal, Adam and Gerrick talk about any topic that comes to mind from microwaves to China. Check out how these four guys became Spoonfed Thoughts on thecirclegsu.com!

You can keep up with them through twitter @SpoonfedThought, spoonfedthoughts.com, Facebook and iTunes.

CLASSIFIEDS

Certified Math teacher with 10+ years experience available for tutoring! Services include: Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, College Algebra, Trigonometry, PreCalculus, Calculus as well as organization and study skills. Flexible schedule. Call 843-214-0548 TODAY / or email info@mathmadesimple.com for rates and to set up your first session.

FOR LEASE 417 S Main Street 6 bedroom house AVAILABLE NOW or AUGUST Also 4 bedroom at GSU entrance - Marvin Avenue AVAILABLE AUGUST (912) 682-7468

PUZZLES

		9	2				1	
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO STILL BE CONSIDERED A PROBLEM?



ERINN WILLIAMS

@erinwilliams

Williams is a writing & linguistics and French double major from Winston, Ga. She is the current Opinions Editor of The George-Anne.

This week marked the beginning of Black History Month. It's a time of remembrance, a time of rejoicing, a time of sorrow and a time of empowerment. Throughout this school year, we have seen college students be on the forefront for advocacy and change for Black people and that hasn't changed for GSU during this Black History Month where student organizations and the Multicultural Student center have joined together to plan and pack a month full of events to better educate the campus.

On Monday night, at the Town Hall Workshop on Student Concerns at GSU, which featured a panel of faculty and staff and discussed questions in relation to Black History Month, a question was posed by panelist Mike Baugh which was "What does it feel like to still be a problem?"

My response to that is that it feels horrible.

The fact is that no matter what I do, what my credentials are, how nice of a person I am, or how much I try to assimilate to the mainstream culture, there are people that will hate me because I contain a little more melanin.

If you don't think being Black is still considered a

problem all you have to do is look at Georgia Southern's Yik Yak.

Yik Yak Quotes:

"I don't understand why back in the day Whites treated Blacks so bad. They actually had manners and were well spoken. Like they acted like whites. Now a days...well you know"

"Black people are the worse. Worthless beasts..."

"When your house is being burned by the KKK or your homie is being lynched then you can b****. Until then don't b**** about how bad Black people have it from your Obamaphone/iPhone at a public university"

And of course we've all seen and heard way worse.

It's sombering to think that college educated millennials can think things like this, let alone say them.

That there is in fact a divide between White GSU and Black GSU, the awkwardness of Greek Row and the treatment that many students say they have experienced at bars all points to this.

And even though I am from a metro/country town outside of Atlanta, where many of my family members were the first to integrate that counties schools, it wasn't until I got to Georgia Southern that I was the victim of overt racism. There is nothing like walking to a homecoming game and seeing fellow members of the True Blue family decked out in game attire, only to be called a n***** b**** and barked at by them.

So obviously there is a problem. But how do we fix it?

How do we fix it?

Well, that question is really hard to answer, because it's going to take a long time and many different methods to change this gap. In a general sense, it is going to take the dedicated work of

all people and if you look at the Georgia Southern community it seems as if many people are dedicated to that cause.

Whether it's through the NAACP, Southern Activists, Black Student Alliance or even our Diversity Peer Educators students are dedicated to promoting a respectful and multicultural atmosphere on this campus.

People are working to spread awareness to campus and work out issues which is the only way that we can fill this gap and the only way that we can obtain any sort of understanding with each other.

What are the best ways to celebrate Black History Month?

Georgia Southern faculty and staff Town Hall Workshop on Student Concerns at GSU panelist described how to celebrate this month.

"The month isn't as important as realizing that our education system, our media system and pretty much every social system that we have tells us a fraction of the story and it constructs a narrative that fits this larger overarching narrative and i think the most important thing to do is to just be aware of that narrative and then realize that you have blind spots. We don't know it all and I have way more to learn than I have learned," Nathan Palmer, Sociology Lecturer, said.

"The first thing is hire more black faculty and staff. We need to stop defining the space for Black people to operate Instead of saying "hey black people we will celebrate you this way, we should ask them how they want to be celebrated. The first thing that we can do is start listening and secondly, we need more black

students in leadership, not black students just by the color of their skin, but black students who have a mindset for progress," Mike Baugh, Educational Program Specialist, said.

"Sometimes it's hard for us to define what's appropriate or a large group of people. I personally think that what's appropriate is subjective. I need to find out how to take Black History into my own hands. By that I mean, I need to find out where exactly I have been miseducated to find out where I need to be authentically educated. There's a reason why the spotlight is shined on African-Americans in a certain light. How do we celebrate it? I think I need to find out how we were miseducated first," Christopher Pugh, Assistant Director of the Multicultural Student Center and MAP Coordinator, said.

"I think you have to take the ownership of owning your history. At some point we have to take ownership and seek out this information so I would just encourage you to gather this history. You would be surprised with how many people in your own circle can share some good history information as well," Dorsey Baldwin, Director of the Multicultural Student Center, said.

"Sometimes you have to travel the road less traveled and go against the grain. There are people who fought and died so that we could sit at this institution and even have this conversation. So the historical foundations of where we are now and how far we have been in terms of the evolution of society in order to enhance humanity. As a student you can do small things that empower you and hopeful other people in this community. We have to be able to solve our own problems," Saba Jallow, Associate Professor of Political Science, said.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

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

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478.0566. 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. For more information, rate cards, or sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director. The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

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

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Managing Editor Lauren Gorla

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Features Editor Matt Sowell

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Daily Editor Casey Cargle

Opinions Editor Erinn Williams

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

GET R.I.C.H.

RECIPES IN COMPLETE HEALTH

Feb 5 - Feb 13

Georgia Southern University's Health Services and the University Wellness Program have teamed up to bring Wellness Week to the Georgia Southern Community.



**BE WELL.
DO WELL.**

**THURS
FEB 5**

- Club Get R.I.C.H., Williams Center Multipurpose Room, 9 pm - Midnight

**MON
FEB 9**

- Get R.I.C.H. Awareness Table, Russell Union 11 am - 1 pm
- Know Your Numbers, University Store Plaza, 11 am - 1 pm
- Body Image Screening, RAC, 4 pm - 6 pm
- Meditation, RAC Mind/Body Studio, 7 pm

**TUES
FEB 10**

- Play is the Game, Nursing/Chemistry Bldg., 11 am - 1 pm
- Lunch & Learn: The Doctor Will See You Now, Russell Union 2047, Noon - 1:30 pm, Reserve your lunch at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/health
- Body Image Screening, RAC, 3 pm - 5 pm
- Healthy Communities by Design Featuring Mark Fenton, PAC, 7 pm

**WED
FEB 11**

- Live Well Fair, Russell Union, 10 am - 2 pm
- 150 Minutes Per Week, Russell Union Rotunda, 11 am - 1 pm
- Empty Bowl Project, Russell Union Rotunda, 11 am - 2 pm
- Guys & Ladies Night Out, Nessmith-Lane Ballroom, 5 pm
- "How to Build a Wealth of Health", RAC Seminar Room, 5:30pm

**THURS
FEB 12**

- Give Me 25 For A Prize, Lakeside Dining Commons, 11 am - pm
- Meditate to Renovate, Russell Union Room 2047, 3:30 pm
- Hot Wings, Hot Topics, Russell Union Room 2047, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**FRI
FEB 13**

- Make Your Appointment Day, Any Computer, Anytime, Make your appointment for your annual physical exam at Health Services by logging into your MyGeorgiaSouthern account and clicking on "Eagle OSH."

**SIGN ONLINE
NOW for best rate!**

**MASSIVE
PRICE REDUCTION
LOW RATES** for Fall Leases!

** Up to \$30 off per Month!*

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*Fill a 3 or 4 bedroom & take another \$10 off already reduced rate!

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FORUM
AT STATESBORO

A PREMIER STUDENT
HOUSING COMMUNITY

DOWNTOWN NO SLIPPER

City Campus goes BIG

BY WHITT VAN TASSELL
The George-Anne staff

THE BUSINESS INNOVATION GROUP

Approximately four years ago, four powerhouse organizations came together in one place creating the Business Innovation Group (BIG) to leverage their resources and collectively improve the greater Statesboro area. That place was Enterprise Zone, and it remains the central nervous system of City Campus.

"What does that do for Statesboro, our region, or even the southeast?" Steve Stewart, Assistant Professor in the College of Business said. "It allows us as a university to offer the southeast the opportunities of an incubator and a FabLab combined with an academic setting... to increase their likelihood for survival."



Stewart paints a picture of an eager entrepreneur who tries to start a business on their own, and through one of many reasons, fails and shuts their doors. "Now this business is heavily in debt, relationships are torn," Stewart said. BIG, Stewart explains, provides immediate networking with people in marketing firms who could have given the entrepreneur advice, accountants who can establish strong financials at the business's inception beginning, and

ethical people for loans or an assessment of their weaknesses in that area.

"Think about the Enhanced likelihood of success in that environment," Stewart said.

Located on 58 East Main Street in the heart of Downtown, the E-Zone features classrooms, communal office space, kitchenette for receptions, and a state-of-the-art video conference room. A Wall Street-style stock ticker rounds out the space's modern appeal while the original exposed rafters reminds entrepreneurs of Statesboro's hard-working roots.

GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC), part of the University System of Georgia, provides low cost training and free consulting services including business plan development, market analysis and marketing strategies, financial analysis, legal help, and preparation of loan submissions.

The Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), BIG's research arm, conducts applied research on community and business development in the greater Statesboro area. A recent, BBRED project with Metter schools helped recognize potential in unused school buildings, converting one school into a Boys' and Girls' Club and relocating a branch of the GBI a wing of another.

Georgia's Enterprise Networking for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GENIE) and the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership (CELL) also work together in the space advancing student

participation and linking small businesses in rural Georgia to resources at Georgia Southern University, and to funds by the US Community Adjustment & Investment Bank. GENIE clients receive technical assistance from business advisors, receiving the same developmental perks as Incubator Clients.

"Hopefully one day, dream as much as you want to dream, we'd like to see some student housing downtown, so the students are actually here versus it being such a separation, and definitely once that happens or we start having lots of classes down here, start doing a busline"
-Suzanne Hallman

FABLAB

If it can be dreamed, it can be prototyped at the FabLab. The Business Innovation Group (BIG) begins construction shortly on the project, putting Statesboro and Georgia Southern on the map with the first FabLab outside of Georgia Tech.

The facility will feature a state-of-the-art Stratasys Mojo 3D printer and a suite of computers running Solidworks, a 3D printing and design software, inside of a "clean room," designed to keep the technology safely away from the grit, sparks, plasma, and grime of the "dirty room," housing the fabrication side of the project.

up with people who are trying to make appendages, making arms and hands, and things that actually work...there's a lot of different things that you can do with [3D Printing]," Suzanne Hallman, Business Advisor at BIG, said.

A MIG welding bench, CNC foam and woodcutter, CNC waterjet, and CNC plasma cutter are to inhabit the dirty room, rounding out the facility's fabrication capabilities.

Those wishing to use the space will have to purchase a monthly membership to offset the cost of consumables such as 3D printing material and welding gas.

"If there's anyone who wants to make a component that will really help someone in their day to day life, that's really cool, it's just a matter of how we turn it into a business," Hallman said.

INNOVATION INCUBATOR

The Innovation Incubator is the dedicated place at City Campus for entrepreneurs. Housing up to 20 new businesses at a competitive market rate, The Incubator turns Statesboro into a place for start-ups to thrive.

"We're creating that ecosystem, that synergy for business, for people that are like-minded entrepreneurs to work side by side and collaborate, to get that creativity going," Suzanne Hallman said.

Membership in the Incubation isn't just a room and a copier though, BIG provides a whole suite of developmental services to get startups off the ground including advisement and leadership assessment, business consulting and technical assistance, access to University professors, and student research. BIG hosts training classes as well, ranging from webinars, to full programs and workshops.

For the entire story, check out thegeorgeanne.com.

GSU TO UNDERGO INTERNAL REBRANDING IN THE FALL

BY WHITT VAN TASSELL
The George-Anne staff

The Office of Marketing and Communications is reworking Georgia Southern University's brand in collaboration with TWG Plus. On January 20, students, faculty, and alumni received an email survey containing five statements generated from focus groups of the GSU community with instructions to rate how closely they felt the statement related to the brand of GSU.

TWG Plus's suggestions are scheduled to come in next month. By the end of the semester, the Office of Marketing and Communications expects to have an idea of a new marketing campaign for the upcoming fall recruitment cycle.

"By fall you should start seeing a new message," Jan Bond, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communication, said.

That new message will include no changes to either GSU's logo or the Eagle.

"Our visual identity is pretty solid," Bond said. "But I wanted to get a better understanding of who we are as a university, what is

our core identity? If we can effectively communicate how great this university is, then that's going to help students as they graduate."

The Whelan Group, better known as TWG Plus, is a higher education marketing group out of Austin, Texas known for their reputation and experience. TWG Plus has rebranded several schools including Austin College, Newbury College and The University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

"This is a process we're sharing with everybody, we want buy in from students," Bond said, "We want participation from students to make sure we're on the right track with what we say."

"TWG was amazed at how much participation we had so quickly," Bond said. "They had never seen this."

TWG Plus was hired to evaluate common themes within the university and to assist the Office of Marketing and Communications with the creation of a "Brand Promise," a one-to-two line internal document that embodies who we are as GSU.

The University's motto

is also likely not to change, as Bond and the branding committee say "Large-scale/Small-feel" is still very relevant, with people really identifying with it.

The rebranding process is not about a tagline or motto, the email containing the survey reads. "Instead, it is a focused statement about what the university is and what it stands for," Bond said.

The Brand Promise suggestion TWG Plus will bring back will likely be a combination of the statements students were asked to respond to in the survey. Alongside the statement, TWG Plus will suggest possible marketing campaigns and an assessment of whether a tagline such as Large-scale/Small-feel benefits the university's image.

"We're such a big university, such a diverse university, to find a tagline that will work for everybody is kinda difficult," Bond said.

Participation in the survey was deemed exemplary, with approximately 490 alumni alone responding within the first 24-hour period.



COURTESY OF GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU

Jan Bond, Associate VP in the Office of Marketing and Communications, has been in direct correspondence with TWG Plus in an effort to internally rebrand GSU.

twgplus

THE WEEKLY BUZZ

FEB. 5TH FEB. 11th

A WEEKLY STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

02/05

THURSDAY

Student Activities Events
UPB GSU Block Party
2:30 - 4:30 pm
Outside Hanner Fieldhouse - Side Entrance
(facing Hollis Building)
Join the University Programming Board and Athletic Marketing as they team up to support the Georgia Southern Women's and Men's basketball teams before they take on the OTHER GSU (Georgia State University). There will be FREE food, games and more!
UPB@georgiasouthern.edu

Multicultural Student Center Events
SANKOFA AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM ON WHEELS
Thursday, February 5, 2015, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Russell Union Ballroom
Friday, February 6, 2015, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Russell Union Ballroom

The Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels was established in 1995 as a way to teach young people about the unique and rich heritage of African-Americans. One of the foremost collections of African-American history spanning the period of 1860 to the present, "Sankofa" takes audiences on a journey through slavery, the era of King Cotton and days of Emancipation. It also tells the stories of Ida B. Wells, other famous African Americans, the Tuskegee Airman, Dr. King, and our 44th president.

This exhibit includes more than 20 tables of historical artifacts, pictures, writings and other tangible items which are enhanced with a guided tour, question and answer session and dramatic presentation. This one-day presentation is open to all. *Sponsored by: Multicultural Student Center & the Campus Life Enrichment Committee (CLEC). ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION WILL BE PROVIDED!

02/09

MONDAY

7 PM
Russell Union Theater
Dr. F. Erik Brooks, Professor and Chair of the Department of African-American Studies at Western Illinois University, will be discussing his 2006 book, "Pursuing A Promise: A History Of African Americans At Georgia Southern University", which recounted the struggles and hardships faced by African-Americans when integrating the schooling systems of the South in general, and Georgia Southern University in particular. Dr. Brooks taught Political Science and Public Administration at Georgia Southern University from 2002 to 2012. ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION WILL BE PROVIDED!

02/10

TUESDAY

Career Services
STEM Employer Night
5pm-8pm Nessmith-Lane Conference Center
STEM Employer Night provides students with the opportunity to learn about potential employers before the STEM Career Fair through employer panels and information sessions. Professional dress required.
Mary Lu Adams madams@georgiasouthern.edu

02/11

WEDNESDAY

Career Services
STEM Career Fair
11am-3pm Nessmith-Lane Conference Center
The STEM Career Fair invites students in science, technology, engineering, and math fields to explore career options. From 11a.m. to 1p.m. employers will be looking for students interested in co-ops and internships. From 1p.m. to 3p.m. employers will be looking for candidates for full-time positions. Professional dress required.
Mary Lu Adams
madams@georgiasouthern.edu

Student activities events
Challenge & Support of Student Leadership
Presented by: Dr. Fayth Parks
5:30 - 6:30 pm Russell Union 2047
Why Challenge to Lead?: Stanford's Theory of Challenge and Support. The cost of attending this outstanding workshop series is FREE!
OSA@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

PEACH STATE SHOWDOWN IN HANNER

BY COLIN RITSICK
The George-Anne staff

No. 1 Georgia Southern hosts No.2 Georgia State tonight in a Sun Belt rivalry game that has playoff implications written all over it.

The three leading scorers in the Sun Belt will all be on the court tonight. State's Ryan Harrow leads the league with 20.6 points per game followed by his teammate R.J. Hunter, who scores 20.0 per game. GSU's Hewitt is third in the Sun Belt with 19.6 points per game.

Harrow and Hunter are the best backcourt tandem in the conference; "[They are] A backcourt that would be very competitive in the ACC and probably start for most ACC teams or SEC teams," head coach Mark Byington said. Harrow started for Kentucky in 2013 before transferring to Georgia State.

"You're not going to stop them...they're going to score, they're going to make tough shots," Byington said.

Harrow is small, quick

and likes to drive to the basket; crafty, as Hewitt refers to him. He can score from anywhere and has a knack for making opponents look silly under the rim.

"It's really difficult because he's such a smart player. He's not out of control where he is charge-prone, and he's got a really good floater," GSU center Trent Wiedeman said.

Hunter is long, athletic and can shoot the lights out if he gets hot. He gets to the free throw line more than anyone on his team and also blocks shots. Hunter is a threat on both sides of the court.

To slow them down, Hewitt said the defense has to be unified and help each other out. Rotations on defense, help side defense and shrinking their gaps in order to force tough shots has been the focus in practice this week.

"We can't let those guys get in our paint," Hewitt said.

As potent as Harrow and Hunter are on offense, Georgia State's defense has holes. They give up more three's than anyone in the Sun Belt.

It just so happens that Georgia Southern makes the most three's in the Sun Belt.

"We've been shooting the ball really well," Hewitt said. "That's definitely going to be a big emphasis in the game."

The Panthers are also relatively under-sized. They play quick, aggressive defense and lead the league in steals with 9.2 per game. But, there isn't anyone that can bang with Wiedeman down low.

Byington and Wiedeman both dismissed the notion that they are going to be looking to exploit Georgia State's size because of the zone defense they play. Byington said that it's hard to pick a particular person to attack with the Panther's zone.

Hewitt knows that Georgia State is worried about the big man, however.

"I know they're going to try to keep the ball out of his hands. I know they're going to play a lot of zone. But we gotta feed the big fella, keep him happy so he can work for us," Hewitt said.



BRANDON WARNOCK THE GEORGE-ANNE
Kyle Doyle has been strong on defense this season posting eight blocks, six steals and 25 defensive rebounds.



BRANDON WARNOCK THE GEORGE-ANNE
Trent Wiedeman is a force under the basket. He has tallied 19 blocks this season.

OUR MOTTO IS "FIND A WAY"

The Atlanta Hawks have taken the NBA by storm, cruising to the best record in the league thanks to an offense that can rely on anyone, any given night. Georgia Southern plays with the same style.

"We've got the kind of team where anyone can lead us in scoring," center Trent Wiedeman said.

Senior Jelani Hewitt leads the team in points per game with 19.6, but it was the freshman Mike Hughes that put up 18 to beat Louisiana-Lafayette in front of a sellout crowd to claim first place in the Sun Belt on Jan. 15.

Eric Ferguson has led the team in scoring twice this season, including his 19 points last week over then-No.1 Louisiana-Monroe, and he isn't even a starter.

"I think one of the things we've done well...we've had different guys step up on different nights. Sometimes those guys are not starters. And in my mind, I don't have just five starters. Curtis Diamond and Eric Ferguson come off the bench. In my mind they're the same thing as a starter. To us we have seven starters," head coach Mark Byington said.

'Find a way' has been a catchphrase for the team this

year. Byington said they talk about it all the time.

"No matter what it takes, find a way to win," he said.

"They give us tremendous energy, especially Curtis [Diamond], Eric Ferguson, Kyle Doyle. Those guys are tremendous on the glass," Hewitt said.

Six different players (Wiedeman, Coye Simmons, Angel Matias, Hughes, Ferguson and Diamond) have led the team in rebounds in a game this year. Also, six players average more than seven points per game for the Eagles.

And they're happy to spread the wealth.

If you watch the players on the bench, they get more excited about their teammates making a big shot than whoever shot it did.

"What I like about this team is they get happy for somebody else's success. Somebody else makes a play or makes a shot, they get happy for them," Byington said.

Teams that have success, and specifically postseason success, have to be able to rely on more than one player to score. So, who will it be tonight?

Georgia Southern vs. Georgia State

2.5.15

Hanner Fieldhouse

1

VS.

2



Softball season begins at the Renegade Classic



file photo

Breanna McLendon finished last season with a perfect fielding percentage, four homeruns and 14 RBIs.

BY ROBERT GEORGE
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern Lady Eagle softball team left the Southern Conference with a regular season championship and a 15-6 record in the conference. But, the Eagles now have their eyes on the Sun Belt, and are looking to make a splash in their first season in the new conference.

The Sun Belt will be a major step up in competition. Last year, the SoCon was ranked 14th in RPI, which ranks conferences on the quality of its teams. In comparison, the Sun Belt ranked 5th in RPI. The higher level of competition will test the Eagles, but they have the roster and coaching staff to compete.

The Eagles are returning seven starting position players, including preseason All-Sun Belt sophomore Taylor Rodgers. The reigning SoCon Freshman of the Year will be a huge part of the Eagles offense this season. She hit .381 as the lead-off hitter last year, and racked up 48 hits and stole 16 bags. She was named to first team All-SoCon along with

a spot on the first team All-Freshman squad. The Eagles will have a chance to score early and often when Rodgers gets on base.

The Eagles will rely on other returning starters to help fill in the gaps left by Sarah Purvis and Kourtney Thomas who have graduated after excellent careers. Senior Brooke Red will get a chance to start a lot of games as pitcher for the Eagles. She went 13-6 last year with a 2.46 ERA across 122.1 innings. Her experience on the mound will be crucial as she looks to navigate through a new conference.

Other returning position players include 2014 second team All-SoCon infielder Morgan Robinson. She started 53 games as a freshman last year, hitting .261 and belting five home runs. Defensive star Lexi Allen will also return after starting all 56 games last year at second base. She finished the season with a .952 fielding percentage.

Senior outfielder Breanna McLendon has yet to commit an error in her 162 game collegiate career. She'll anchor an excellent defensive outfield

along with Rodgers and SoCon All-Freshman Emily Snider, who started every game last year, hitting .230 and stealing 11 bases along with five home runs.

Junior catcher A.J. Hamilton will return to start her third season behind the plate. She has a career fielding percentage of .984 and saw her batting average jump from .198 to .219 from her freshman and sophomore seasons. She will be a critical piece on offense if she can continue to improve at the plate.

The Eagles will begin the season this weekend when they travel to Tallahassee, Fla. to compete in the Renegade Classic. They'll take on nationally ranked Florida State University before facing Kentucky, who is ranked just behind the Seminoles at No. 6 in the nation. The elite competition will give the Eagles a chance to see where they're at early in the season and where they need to improve. The Eagles begin play on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 10 a.m.



File photo

The Eagles finished the 2014 season 15-6 in the conference. Six seniors are returning this season to help with the Sun Belt transition.

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VALENTINE?



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NEW EAGLES ARE ANNOUNCED



RYAN WOODHAM THE GEORGE-ANNE
Head coach **Willie Fritz** proudly announced 22 signees for the 2015 season. He is confident in the upcoming class.

2015 Recruiting Class

JAY BOWDRY (S)
6'0" 187lbs ***

JEREMIAH CULBRETH (OT)
6'3" 285lbs ***

WESLEY FIELDS (RB)
6'0" 195lbs ***

OBE FORTUNE (WR)
6'1" 180lbs ***

MARKEIS HALLBACK (S)
6'0" 185lbs ***

LOGAN HUNT (LB)
6'2" 230lbs ***

J.B. KOUASSI (DE)
6'2" 225lbs ***

JESSIE LIPROT (CB)
6'0" 175lbs ***

CHRISTIAN MATTHEW (CB)
6'3" 175lbs ***

HAMPTON MCCONNELL (QB)
6'3" 200lbs ***

JOSHUA MOON (S)
5'11" 180lbs ***

CURTIS RAINEY (C)
6'2" 275lbs ***

JEREMIAH THEUS (OT)
6'4" 280lbs ***

KEVIN ACKERMAN (TE)
6'5" 232lbs **

J.L. BANKS (TE)
6'3" 230lbs **

LANE ECTON (S)
5'11" 185lbs **

D'ONDRE GLENN (WR)
6'5" 210lbs **

MALIK HENRY (WR)
6'0" 170lbs **

ERIC MONTGOMERY (RB)
6'0" 188lbs **

NAQUAN HOWARD (CB)
6'1" 177lbs

MAX MAGANA (OL)
6'6" 290lbs Feather River College

ROSCOE BYRD (OL)
6'3" 319lbs UAB

BY HAYDEN BOUDREAUX
The George-Anne staff

It has been nearly two months since the Eagles clenched the Sun Belt conference title and excitement is already brewing for the 2015 season as signing day has brought one of the best recruiting classes in school history.

Head coach Willie Fritz entered the program last year with precious time before signing day and was able to assemble a respectable class filled with a lot of potential. Now, after having a full season and offseason of recruiting, he has been able to assemble a class littered with three and two-star talent.

"The big thing we noticed that was different between last year and this year was time. We already had commitments and we ran with those. This year we were able to get into the schools, contact the kids, bring them on visits and campus," Fritz said.

Typically, when a coach at the FBS level recruits, they are preparing for the future. That was much the same

this Signing Day, except for some of the talent that can make a difference right away for the Eagles. Three-star prospects took up 13 of the 22 scholarships, and a lot of them chose Georgia Southern knowing they would be starters for other teams in the conference immediately.

"Our exposure, six nationally televised games and the rest could be watched on ESPN3, really helped our brand. Obviously our facilities helped us. The guys being able to see these facilities when they came on visits or to games drastically helped," Fritz said.

With talent coming on both sides of the ball, many players will be able to have immediate impacts while others will have the chance to learn behind some of the best football players Georgia Southern has seen. For example, three-star quarterback Hampton McConnell is a great talent who is able to make plays with his arm and his legs. He will have the opportunity to be redshirted and learn the offense behind quarterbacks Kevin Ellison and Favian Upshaw.

The same could be said

for running backs Eric Montgomery and Wesley Fields. Both have big play ability that Fritz could use next fall, or have them watch the tandem of Matt Brieda and L.A. Ramsby to duplicate their success in the future.

With every recruiting season comes some athletes who flip their commitment. Three players were lost to schools over the weekend, which were Georgia, Northwestern and Nebraska. Sometimes, losing players can snowball into bigger problems, but it doesn't bother Coach Fritz.

"I don't panic. I've been doing this for 23 years and this is my twenty-third recruiting class, and I did it for 11 years as an assistant. We are going to play with the guys we get," Fritz said.

The Eagles were also able to net two transfers. The first being Max Magana out of Feather River College. He will have two years of eligibility remaining. Standing at six-foot-six and 290 pounds, Magana can add to the offensive line immediately and will have a major shot at seeing

time this fall. Another player that has potential to make a difference is UAB transfer Roscoe Byrd. After his former team disbanded their football program, Byrd had one year of eligibility remaining and can join the Eagles without having to sit out the usual year for transfers.

"Each kid I talked to today, after I told them congratulations, I told them to start working with the intent of playing next year. We are not in redshirt business. If they are good enough to play, they will play next year," Fritz said.

The most exciting thing about this recruiting class is that they share the same vision and foresight of the Eagles. It would be easy for recruits to get lured to the bigger name schools with established D-I FBS traditions, and some were. However, the recruits that signed with the Georgia Southern Eagles have the ability to see that something special is happening in Statesboro, and that they will help us do it one more time.

“
I TOLD
THEM TO
START
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WITH
THE
INTENT
OF
PLAYING
NEXT
YEAR.”

WILLIE FRITZ
Football Head Coach

FRED RICHTER

A Fixture at Southern



BY KENNETH LEE
The George-Anne staff

Fred Richter, a former Georgia Southern professor of 32 years, has had a rich and sometimes adversarial history with Statesboro. As an openly gay professor, he was influential in Georgia Southern's decision to include sexual orientation to the University's non-discrimination policy.

Employed by Southern as an English professor in 1969, Richter chose to be open with his homosexuality, a decision that was not always easy at times.

"Sixty years ago, it was a sickness, it was a sin, and it was a crime when I was a boy, and I survived. I'm thrilled now that we have what we call gay-straight alliances. A generation ago, that was not likely. It's changing dramatically fast. From my point of view, it's been a revolution," Richter said.

During his time at Southern, Richter was responsible for being the sponsor of the first gay student organization on campus, originally called the Triangle Club, and currently known as the Gay-Straight Alliance. Nowadays, GSA boasts a membership of almost 300, according to

MyInvolvement.

Richter also volunteered for the opportunity to inform and talk to students enrolled in Georgia Southern's psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and English classes, about homosexuality and other sexual orientation-related questions.

"I actually, for a brief while, created some gay studies courses. I gathered several different faculty members from several different departments, anthropology, theology, art, English, music, and each one had two weeks in the term to expose students with what they knew about sexual identity in the world. It was an eye-opener," Richter said.

Richter shared his experience with some of the bigotry he faced in Statesboro during his career at Southern.

"I've had many hostile encounters, nothing ever official. Although I never had any trouble from the administration, I endured a lot of difficult things like standing up in front of an audience and having Christians stand up with their bibles and accuse, sometimes aggressively, sometimes gently. I've had calls in the middle of the night. Some of them dreadfully painful and sad. Some of them threatening."

Despite the obstacles he was faced with, Richter continued teaching English, receiving three professor of the year awards on the way, until 1998, when he became the assistant dean of undergraduate studies and the founding director of the University Honors Program. After a successful and rewarding career mentoring and guiding students, Richter eventually retired in 2001.

"Being in the classroom, that's where my joy was. It was really great, good fun to walk into a classroom with brand new freshmen and talk about anything from under the sun. I don't think I enjoyed anything more than those conversations with my students," Richter said. "I had a wonderful life,

I didn't plan it, I didn't dream of being a teacher, but the first time I entered a classroom I thought 'wow, I like this,' and that was the beginning."

Even now, Richter is still actively involved with Statesboro, having substituted teaching with community work, volunteering his time in various ways. On some days, he's a yoga instructor at Trinity Episcopal Church, a position he held for 10 years. On others, he's a greeter for the soup kitchen, Rebecca's Café, making sure people feel welcomed and loved as they get the free meal they need. He can even be occasionally seen volunteering his labor at the Botanical Gardens, building new gates.

Richter's days have recently been focused on The Boys and Girls Club, an organization committed to improving the care of young boys and girls by offering club programs within a safe place to grow. Richter recently joined the board of the Boys and Girls Club in Statesboro, and has diligently worked to promote and muster political support to lift it up in the community.

"The Boys and Girls Club is the best way I know to tackle poverty with the young people, to bring them programs in this community, we need better facilities, we need more public support. I think the boys and girls club should be state of the art in a place like Statesboro. We're a very prosperous community, we should be able to afford a world class girls and boys club," Richter said.

Richter expressed gratitude for the support of his partner, support that has fueled him with bravery, strength, and fortitude, throughout the many years.

"What has given me courage through the years was Bobby. When you know love is love then all doubts are erased. If you don't get shot, you just keep standing up and walking forward. My courage stems directly from my good fortune in a good relationship," Richter said.

NICOLE MCINTYRE THE GEORGE-ANNE

Fred Richter, part-time yoga instructor, left quite a mark of the Georgia Southern campus. Richter was an openly gay professor. He founded the Gay Straight Alliance and recently he has been teaching yoga classes and working with the Boys and Girls club of Statesboro.

Stepping Up UPGRADED WOMEN'S CLINIC TO BRING IMPROVED SERVICES

BY RASHIDA OTUNBA
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University will soon have a new addition to its campus: a women's health center.

Although the university has housed a women's health area in the current Health Services building for years, the new women's clinic will be located on the second floor of the new Student Health Center, separate from the other parts of the building.

"We are proud to be able to offer our students a new women's health center space that they can call their own. It will be a comfortable, private, state of the art space where they can receive high-quality care," Dr. Brian

DeLoach, medical director and staff physician of Health Services, said.

The new addition will contain its own separate waiting room, check in area, exam room and office spaces, allowing female patients to have privacy. The current women's health center has five exam rooms, but the new building will allow the women's clinic to house twelve exam rooms in order to further enhance the number of patient care.

The women's health center will continue to offer the same primary women's health care services as the the current clinic and will continue to take most major health insurance.

"Our Women's Health Center provides primary women's health care, treating both acute and chronic conditions, and provides preventative health maintenance and screening exams, including annual examination, PAP smears when

indicated, contraception counseling and management and basic laboratory services," Dr. DeLoach said.

In addition to a new building, Health Services also plans to expand its staff as well.

"The new Women's Health Center space will have room to add an additional provider at some point. That will not occur immediately. At some point in the future, we would like to have the opportunity to add a physician with either a Family Medicine or OB-GYN board certification to complement our current three Women's Health Nurse Practitioners," Dr. DeLoach said.

The Student Health Building, which will be built across from the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center on the corner of Plant Drive and Chandler Road, plans to be completed by October 2015 and will be opening by January 2016.

“We are proud to be able to offer our students a new women's health care center space that they can call their own.

DR. BRIAN DELOACH
Medical Director and
Staff Physician

DATA FOR U.S.

13.7% OF WOMEN 18 YEARS AND OVER ARE IN FAIR OR POOR HEALTH.

73.2% OF WOMEN 18 YEARS AND OVER HAVE HAD A PAP SMEAR WITHIN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

64% OF WOMEN WHO PRACTICE CONTRACEPTION CURRENTLY USE NONPERMANENT METHODS, PRIMARILY HORMONAL METHODS (THE PILL, PATCH, IMPLANT, INJECTABLE AND VAGINAL RING), THE IUD AND CONDOMS.

Information compiled from CDC.gov

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2/11 GREAT MINDS Dr. Geoff
Kelley: "Big Bend at the Crossroads: Transbordering Conservation on the U.S.-Mexico Frontier" 5:30 p.m. Fielding S. Russell Union, Room 2084;
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2/24 CONCERT On the Verge
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2/26 CONCERT Wind Symphony
7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center; 912.478.5396

All events are open to the public, and admission is free except where otherwise indicated. For more information, please visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/class.



HEROES

Sometimes, its just nice to stop and take notice of people. You never know what their stories may be like.

We are constantly on the move. When do we ever stop to look around? If we look at the surface of things, we can see a pretty picture.

But if we dare to go deeper, to notice those around us and start conversation, we could enter a whole new view of the world that shows us how much work and how many people are below the surface of the pretty picture we live in everyday.

1. KAREN BOGGAN BUS DRIVER

A heart-filled woman who is determined make lives better by doing the little things. From hearty 'Goodmorning's' to cheerful 'Goodevening's', she is positive during every moment and enjoys helping us get from one place to another quickly and safely.

"I love coming here and I love talking to the students, finding out where they're from and what they're interested in because you know, to me, everybody needs a friend. Anybody can have a bad day and even just someone sayin' 'hello' to somebody can brighten up their day. I think its very important to notice people. To let them know that you saw them and to let them know 'hey, I saw you.' A student will be all the way in the back of the bus and they'll come up here and say 'Mrs. Karen, now, you have a nice day!' And do you know what? Whatever's going on with my problems, it just melts it all away. It just blesses my heart whenever one of our students does that."

2. DIANE HOUSTON FACILITIES SERVICES IN THE LIBRARY

A quiet, yet bold spirited woman who putters around the library taking care of our occasional sloppy college-kid messes, giving Club Hendy the sparkle that many fail to observe.

"Well, I love my job, I wish I could get a little bit more money from it. The work's not hard and I like being around people. I just love the students and I love the school. My dream is to retire in two more years."

3. HARVEY LITTLES FACILITIES SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

Rough on the outside from work, but soft on the inside from care. He has sure to have seen many sunrises and sunsets while caring for the grounds of Georgia Southern we walk upon everyday.

"Oh yea, I like my job. It pays the bills thats for sure. I'm just takin' it day by day. Day by day."

4. MIKE GERWIG FACILITIES SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

Eager to work and enjoy life, he is bound to see many sunrises and sunsets while caring for the grounds with Littles. Both keep our campus the image of perfection that it always has been, something that takes time and hard work which many fail to realize.

"I was working in Maryland on a golf course and we were planing on moving to Georgia, so I applied for it, and when we moved down here -- here I am! Badda-bing-badda-boom! We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't love it. That's the bottom line, because you've gotta have a passion to do it."

5. KATIE EDWARDS STARBUCKS "COFFEE MASTER"

Beaming with warm welcome's and sweet thank you's, she is a woman who personifies the drinks she makes. Which in turn, makes the lives of students better one greeting and espresso shot at a time.

"My favorite part is the people I work with and the people I'm around -- the students. I love Georgia Southern University, I graduated from here in 2007. Eagle Dining services as a whole is kind of like a family, so its comfortable and familiar. I kept coming back here because I knew they would help me out and take care of me, it was like giving me a home."

"With memories, there was a student that came in and she had a rough day, I was at the register talking to her and I said "well what size can I get you?" and she said "venti hot chocolate" -- she always got a venti hot chocolate. But then, she burst into tears, she was just so upset. So, the manager here, because I was just a barrista at the time, she comes up and she said "I'm so sorry, I'll take care of you, no problem." She pays for her drink, walks over to her, sits down with her and talks to her for like 20 or 30 minutes to make her feel better. It really showed me that I'm here to serve the students, but it's more than that, you know? I like to interact with the students and make their day better, it doesn't matter if I'm having a bay day, I just smile, make their drink and do the best I can, because it's all I can do sometimes."

BEHIND THE CAMPUS

BY MEG ELWOOD
The George-Anne staff



MEG ELWOOD THE GEORGE-ANNE

◀ 1) **Karen Boggan** has been here for nine years, starting August of 2005.

▼ 2) **Diane Houston** has been here 18 years.



▲ 3) **Harvey Littles** (left) has been here 5 years. 4) **Mike Gerwig** (right) has been here for three weeks.



▲ 5) **Katie Edwards** has been here on and off since the store opened in 2006.

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