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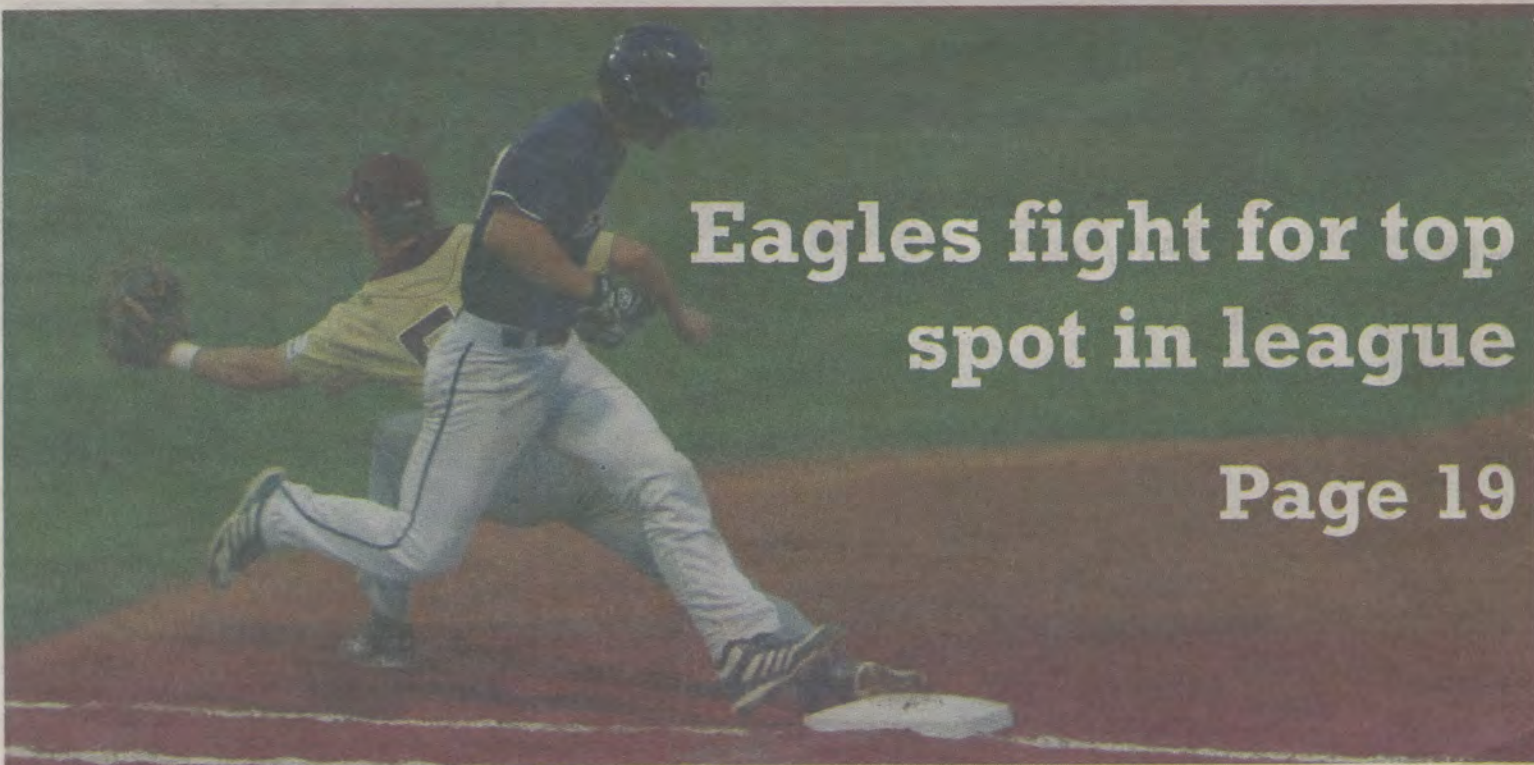
GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

How to make your way
through finals week **PAGE 2**



Nursing majors show
strength through tragedy
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spot in league**

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**Check
out our
*Year
in
Review***

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Nepal Earthquake

Professors raise awareness

BY DJ FULLMER
The George-Anne staff

During the early hours of the morning of Saturday, April 25, both chemistry professor Dr. Laxman Pandey and mechanical engineer professor Dr. Bishal Silwal were awakened by their wives to learn that Nepal was hit by a 7.8 richter scale earthquake centered in Kathmandu, the capitol.

Currently the total of deaths is around 5,000 and about 10,000 people injured according to BBC News. The earthquake even caused an avalanche on Mt. Everest killing at least 18 climbers and trapping 150.

Dr. Pandey is from Butuwal but his brothers live in Kathmandu where the earthquake hit. Dr. Silwal was born and raised in the capitol, so the majority of his family lives in the capitol.

"I had to wait close to 24 hours...the lines were very very busy," Pandey said, when he was trying to contact his relatives in Nepal. Dr. Silwal had to face busy lines and poor connection until his father finally contacted him over the phone.

"One thing is that the area of Nepal is very close to the fault," Pandey said.

This means that this area is very prone to earthquakes, but this earthquake has been on the worst since 1934 where Nepal experience a 8.0 according to Dr. Silwal.

Both professors main goal in talking about Nepal is to get students to raise awareness and donate to various different crowdfunding sites.

"The best donation is the Red Cross, they do not take too much tax," Dr. Silwal said.



FINALS PLAYLIST

So finals are next week *cue the collective groan and panic attacks*, the library will be packed and we'll all be hitting the books like it's our last chance at survival. Here's a soundtrack to all that hard work.

Instrumental Pandora Stations

If listening to music with lyrics is distracting, try these to keep you on track as you pour over a semester's worth of notes.

1. Hans Zimmer If you don't know, he has composed some of the greatest movie soundtracks including "Gladiator," "Inception" and the "Dark Knight" trilogy

2. Symphonic Summer For those of you who wish to feel studious and listen to composers such as Bach and Beethoven

3. Andrew Lloyd Webber A composer of some of musicals such as "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats," has a great pandora station for studying. Webber and the other artists that come onto the station have a really orchestral heavy movement that a lot of people find soothing while studying.

Lyrical Pandora Stations

Can you handle words in a song while studying? Give these a go to preserve your sanity.

1. Bon Iver It's a chill song station with fewer obnoxious beats

2. Cherub "Solid background music," for a more up-beat station to keep you going

3. Beyonce Really up-beat and has powerful songs to keep anyone studying

FINALS WEEK TIPS

BY CAITLYN OLIVER
The George-Anne staff

What is sleep? Seems to be a common question among college students. This question is the college equivalent of the Question of Life. The problem is that not sleeping is more detrimental than it is helpful before that big test. Especially during the upcoming week.

If you want the best chance at having a good night's sleep, here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Create a routine If you have a routine before bed, your body will recognize those activities and start preparing for sleep. Also, try going to sleep at the same time if possible. This keeps your body in a rhythm and going to sleep won't be as difficult.

2. Relax Sometimes this may be easier said than done but taking a warm bath or reading before going to bed will slow your brain down so it will accept sleep.

3. Don't lie awake If you can't sleep, don't stay in bed. Get up and listen to music or read or do the homework you've been putting off.

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Friday



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Saturday



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Low: 54°

Sunday



High: 82°
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WEATHER ANIMALS



FINALS SCHEDULE

MON MAY 4	7:30 am - 9:30 am	Classes beginning at 8:00 am MWF
	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Classes beginning at 10:10 am MWF
	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Classes beginning at 12:20 pm MWF
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Classes beginning at 2:30 pm MW
	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Classes beginning at 5:30 pm MW
	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Classes beginning at 8:30 pm MW
TUE MAY 5	7:30 am - 9:30 am	Conflict Exam Period
	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Classes beginning at 9:30 am TR
	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Classes beginning at 12:30 pm TR
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Classes beginning at 2:00 pm TR
	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Classes beginning at 5:00 pm TR
	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Classes beginning at 8:00 pm TR
WED MAY 6	7:30 am - 9:30 am	Classes beginning at 9:05 am MWF
	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Classes beginning at 11:15 am MWF
	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Classes beginning at 1:25 pm MWF
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Conflict Exam Period
	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Classes beginning at 4:00 pm MW
	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Classes beginning at 7:00 pm MW
THURS MAY 7	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Classes beginning at 11:00 am TR
	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Conflict Exam Period
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Classes beginning at 3:30 pm TR
	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Classes beginning at 6:30 pm TR
	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Conflict Exam Period
FRI MAY 8	7:30 am - 9:30 am	Classes beginning at 8:00 am TR
	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Conflict Exam Period



Interested in making films?

Georgia Southern's Film Club was started in October of last year and is a way for anyone interested in making films to get hands on experience while networking with other student in the field. Students in Film Club have the opportunity to create films outside of class even without previous experience. Film Club will resume meetings this fall semester. To see the whole video, go to thecirclegsu.com!



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3

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

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

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

The George-Anne receives additional support in part from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, rate cards, or sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director. The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

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

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CORRECTIONS: Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

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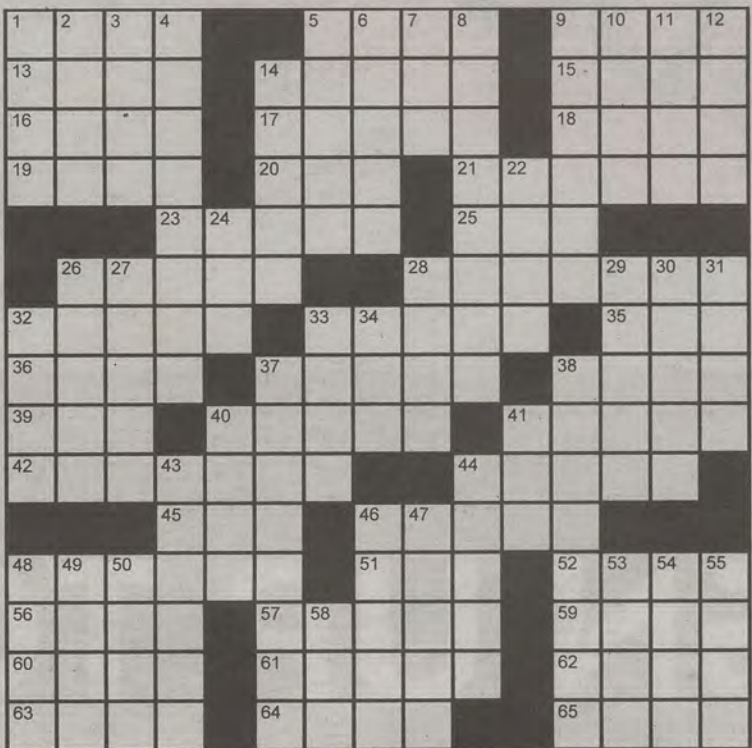
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BRANDON WARNOCK THE GEORGE-ANNE

NURSING PROGRAM RECOVERS TOGETHER

BY NADIA DREID
The George-Anne staff

The School of Nursing was rocked by tragedy last Wednesday, when five of its nearly 200 students were killed in a traffic accident on highway I-16 near Savannah.

Caitlyn Baggett, Morgan Bass, Emily Clark, Abbie Deloach and Catherine "McKay" Pittman were all "junior one" nursing students, meaning that they were in their first semester of nursing program. Brittney McDaniel and Megan Richards, also junior one students, were injured in the crash and treated for their injuries.

While the entire campus grieved the loss of those students, the nursing program and particularly the junior one class, felt that loss much more acutely.

This is likely due to the nature and structure of the nursing program, senior one (third semester) nursing student Kendall Arakawa said.

"It's very close," Arakawa said. "I wouldn't discount how close the individuals in junior one are."

RIGOROUSLY SERVING

Georgia Southern University's nursing program is nationally acclaimed, ranked one of the top

100 in the country by U.S. News and World Report this year and getting in is competitive.

"We admit about a third of the students who apply," Melissa Garo, director of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, said.

According to the chair of the nursing school Sharon Radzynski, the lowest GPA in the current junior one cohort is around 3.6. To even be admitted to the program, students must have already completed all their core curriculum requirement.

"We accept 50 students each semester, and those 50 that are accepted and begin will take the same courses with the same classmates for the next two years," Garo said. "They get very, very close."

The course load is extremely rigorous, Radzynski said, but necessary to train nurses who are willing to serve and capable of managing all manner of situations.

"There is an enormous amount of work," Radzynski said.

Classes are generally four days a week, around eight in the morning to three or four in the afternoon. During their two years in the program, student nurses must also complete 1,000 hours of direct patient care, which they do by completing

clinicals at local hospitals.

Baggett, Bass, Clark, Daniels, Deloach, Pittman and Richards, were on their way to their final clinical of the semester when their accident occurred.

"Students have to not just learn textbook information, take a test, move on. They literally have to transform themselves into another person," Radzynski said. "There's no 'I' here anymore . . . I want, I want, I want, I need, I need, I need - gone. It's about everything to do for somebody else."

SUPPORT

The School of Nursing is doing all it can to make sure its students have to work through the grieving process and make it to the end of the semester and beyond, Radzynski said.

"We didn't officially cancel anything because we understand that some people need the normal working of day to day life," Radzynski said. "So we didn't cancel anything, but we didn't require anyone to attend."

The program wanted to make sure that any students who wanted to attend funeral services or go home to be with family were able to do so, she said. They also extended deadlines on all projects until

the very last day of class. Any students who feel like they are unable to complete the coursework this semester will be allowed to take incompletes and work on finishing their work over the summer.

Aside from academic support, Radzynski said that the faculty, who are also grieving, are doing all they can to make sure students have emotional support as well. Not only by making sure they are aware of counseling services, but by simply being there for those who need it.

"So much of grief is just that physical need to be with somebody else and to know that somebody else is going to accept what you're going through, and that's what we're trying to do," Radzynski said. "We understand that some people need to be completely alone and we leave them alone. We understand that some people just really need to be held and we'll hold them."

IN THEIR MEMORY

Nursing schools from all over the country have reached out to GSU's School of Nursing in support, sending flowers, planting trees and making plans to start scholarship funds in the fallen students' honor, Radzynski said.

The nursing students of GSU themselves have met to discuss what they feel would be the best way to honor their lost classmates, and while nothing has been decided for sure, Radzynski said that students seemed particularly fond of the idea of a commemorative wreath.

The wreath would hang on the first floor of the nursing building and be made of grapevines and decorated Georgia Southern colors and apricot roses, to symbolize the profession of nursing.

"And as students graduate from the program, they would tie a little ribbon around one of the branches in memory of these five as they themselves become a professional nurse," Radzynski said.

Garo expects that in the long run, this tragedy will bring the junior one class and the nursing school closer as a whole.

"They get up together, they go to classes together, they eat together, they study together, they live together," Garo said. "These aren't just casual acquaintances - they're sisters."

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JEFF LICCIARDELLO THE GEORGE-ANNE

GSU welcomes new solar powered trash compactors

BY JULIA FECHTER

The-George-Anne contributor

Three new features made their on-campus debut on April 15 as part of No Impact Week at Georgia Southern University. GSU now has its first solar powered trash compactors.

The compactors are located right by the Russell Union Rotunda, Lakeside Café and the Union/Centennial Place bus stop. These bins are for recyclable items, and they use solar energy to squash down the trash.

"A lot of things are full of air. You can fill a bin with these things and smash them down, losing a vast majority of the volume," Dr. Lissa Legee, Director for the Center for Sustainability, said.

In this way, the trash takes up significantly less space. The compactors also operate in conjunction with a computer system. This system notifies facilities so they can come pick up the trash. This creates a significant reduction in labor costs because the bins do not have to be emptied every day.

The solar compactors were funded by the sustainability fee that all GSU students pay as part of tuition. Specifically, this project was funded by a grant. To get the grant, James Grigg, the Director of Facilities Operations, had to submit a proposal for the grant when there was a call for proposals for campus sustainability projects. Over this year, \$438,000 has been awarded to different sustainability projects.

Leege also mentioned University of Georgia's success with the Big Belly trash compactors. UGA installed the compactors in September of 2013. Since then, the university has been able to reallocate 27.5 hours of labor a week to other custodial tasks. That is in contrast to the former 30 hours spent collecting trash. UGA has additionally observed a 41 percent recycling rate with the compactors on campus. Leege says the compactors at GSU are a pilot program. "We'll see how it works, and if GSU wants to, we will expand it."

At UGA

27.5 hours of labor a week has been reallocated to other custodial tasks

30 hours of labor was previously spent collecting trash

41% recycling rate with the compactors

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN KINDER
Country singer **Ryan Kinder** will grace Statesboro with a jaw-dropping performance tonight at 9 p.m.

Ryan Kinder comes to Club 125

BY MEG ELWOOD
The George-Anne staff

AirBound Entertainment and Club 125's month long concert series finally comes to a close tonight at 9 p.m. The performance is a big one, hosting up-and-coming country singer Ryan Kinder with Nate Kenyon.

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee and living in Birmingham, Alabama for most of his life, Ryan Kinder began his music career with some simple

guitar classes and a challenge from his mom.

"My mom said, 'if you can prove that you can actually play, I'll buy you a guitar,' so I practiced, practiced and practiced and she bought me one," Kinder said.

During his college years at the University of Alabama, he and his brother Ross made a small living by playing for events around campus from bars to Greek Life parties and later performing for the various schools in the Southeast Circuit. Now, Kinder has been on multiple tours opening for and jamming with bands like Zac Brown Band and currently lives in country music's hometown of Nashville, Tennessee.

The original songwriting inspiration began when young Kinder woke up one road trip to John Mayer's album "Room for Squares."

"I remember going 'Wow, what is this? I've gotta find that, I've gotta take that apart' and I ended up learning that album top to bottom," Kinder said.

Dave Matthews, Keith Urban and Jackson Brown also follow John Mayer in Kinder's top inspirations. While he has his own sound, one can notice the unique blend of country and Mayer's acoustic, blues-rock guitar riffs in Kinder's music. What really makes Kinder's music his own are from two bits of information which he took away from an experience writing with a man named Tom Douglas.

"He [Douglas] said, 'It starts with a song' and he said 'write what you know,'" Kinder said.

From then on, Kinder started writing songs like his debut single "Kiss Me When I'm Down" about experiences and people in his life now and years ago. This quality brings out the whole-hearted aspect of his music by telling a story from the heart.

Kinder will play at Club 125 tonight around 11:30 p.m. after being opened by Nate Kenyon, well known for his performance on television's "America's Got Talent," at 10 p.m.

To give Ryan Kinder a listen, visit www.ryankinder.com

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AN EVENING OF ONE ACTS



BY MICHELLE PRATT
The George-Anne contributor

Tonight and tomorrow night three Georgia Southern University student directors have a chance to present their work with three one-act plays starting at 7 p.m.

"The Respectful Prostitute," "The Indian Wants the Bronx" and "The Dutchman" are all plays consisting of only one act and have powerful meanings.

"My play contains a lot of symbolism for charged, tense affairs surrounding race and the limit people can be pushed to. I think my play truly shows what the Amiri Baraka was thinking when he wrote it,"

KELLY LOWERY THE GEORGE-ANNE

Georgia Southern's theatre department celebrates 30 years of African-American theatre with "An Evening of One Acts."

Ibiwumi Owolabi, senior theatre major and director of "The Dutchman," said.

This year the theme of the one-acts ended up revolving around race and African-American theatre.

"This year in the department we are celebrating 30 years of African-American theatre in Statesboro and this was a great chance to showcase plays and playwrights that embrace race and social change," Teundras Oaks, senior theatre major and director of "The Indian Wants the Bronx," said. "I really wanted to be apart of this celebration since I am African-American myself and it was a honor to direct a play for a couple of nights."

Although the plays are only one act in length, they are packed with surprise and action that will fill the night. "The night of one-acts will be a beautiful night at the

theatre. All three directors are very passionate about their plays and each play will make you think about the world we live in once you walk," Oaks said.

With the one-acts being shorter than a full two-act play, it helps deliver the main theme of the plays clearly.

"One-acts condense a play to the essential, visceral moments. Sometimes, in plays with more acts, the play gets lofty in its delivery of the message. One-acts, especially 'The Dutchman,' really bring the message home early," Owolabi said.

Come support fellow students as they tell strong stories about race for the 30 years of African American theatre.

Admission is free and mature content will be shown.

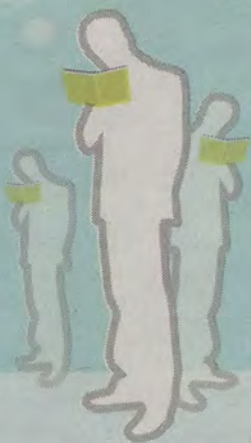
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APRIL 30

Tonight will be Bouldering Night Out

at 7 p.m. at the Bouldering Cave in the RAC. This event is open to beginners and experienced climbers, and there are prizes and food served as well. For more information about Bouldering Night Out visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/southern-adventures/climbing/bouldering-night-out/>.

Madness in the Meadow ends today.

Be sure to stop by before it's over and try this non-traditional, high intensity training program. For more information, visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/fitness/fitness-programs/madness-in-the-meadow/>.

MAY 1

Group Fitness Spring Schedule ends today.

Before they are over, stop by and try one of the various workout classes available. For the schedule of activities, visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/fitness/fitness-programs/group-fitness-schedule/>.

Fitness Assessments ends today.

Stop by and determine your fitness level. For more information, visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/fitness/fitness-services/fitness-assessments/>.

MAY 4

Registration for Summer Basketball and Summer Softball opens!

To register your team, please visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/intramurals/get-involved/how-to-register/>.

Spring Group Fitness Finals Week Schedule begins today.

To see the schedule, visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/fitness/fitness-programs/group-fitness-schedule/>.

UPB Spring Finals Fest

Monday, May 4th

6:00 pm at the Russell Union Parking Lot

Take a break from studying and enjoy a FREE meal, laser tag, and many other fun activities to replenish you for finals! Join campus administrators as they volunteer to serve YOU! Finals Feast provides students with a much-needed study break and gives University leaders a chance to visit with the students. This event is open to GSU students ONLY. Please bring your Eagle ID. For more information on accommodations related to access or participation, please email UPB at upb@georgiasouthern.edu at least two weeks prior to the event. Contact Information: UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

MAY 5

Bike Shop Closes today.

MAY 7

Campus Cycle Bikes Due Back today.

Spring Group Fitness Finals Week Schedule ends today.

MAY 8

RAC Spring Hours end.

UPB Lantern Walk

Friday, May 8th

7:00 pm at Sweetheart Circle

Join the University Programming Board as we honor all of the Spring 2015 graduating seniors! Friends and families of graduates are welcome to attend! Graduates, wear your caps (and/or gown) and receive a free commemorative lantern! Light refreshments will be served. For information on accommodations related to access, email: upb@georgiasouthern.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Contact Information: UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

MAY 9

RAC Summer Break Hours begin.

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK

THE WEEKLY BUZZ IS SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

ARTIST CORNER

Featuring Claudia Furlow

KELLY LOWERY THE GEORGE-ANNE

Student artist Claudia Furlow shows off her piece "Battenburg Nursery."



BY RASHIDA OTUNBA

The George-Anne staff

Upon first glance, Georgia Southern University graduate student Claudia Furlow's art is an ode to color and texture. Ambiguous in form, her work looks as if it is some beautiful strange mix between a colorful coral reef and bone. What is bizarre, though, is that these gorgeous works of abstract art are actually stills of rotting meat.

Ordinarily, a maggot-ridden piece of meat is not considered to be lovely, but I want people to see the wonder of the organic world. One of the things that I want to put across in my work is that I think animals and humans are amazing. The patterns that our tissue make is pretty astounding, Furlow said.

Furlow creates abstract art pieces by drawing inspiration from Dutch and Flemish baroque artists like Johannes Vermeer and Rembrandt van Rijn.

"My painting itself, if I needed to sum it up, would be that I wanted to use a grotesque subject matter to use Renaissance technique to make it beautiful," Furlow said.

Using her back porch as a lab of sorts, Furlow established a maggot farm, using a piece of raw meat to attract the creatures and documenting their progress. When the maggots finally left

the steak, the remnants of the meat had left a lacy texture. Furlow finished her experiment by using a camera to zoom in on the subject and take photos.

"My work looks abstract because I have removed the context, the context being the background and have zoomed into the texture. I blow things up several hundred times," Furlow said.

The finished product of her experiment is now immortalized on canvas in her magnum opus, a piece titled "Battenburg Nursery."

Although Furlow is now an accomplished painter, she was not always such a refined artist. A Virginia native, she says that she experimented with many other mediums before she decided that painting was the right route for her.

"I'm interested in tradition and the tradition of the oil painter was very strong. I started oil painting about fifteen years ago. I had been working at a museum for six years and I had intended to go to grad school right after I graduated undergrad, but I took the employment instead so during that time I didn't have much time to develop my painting, so now I'm enjoying focusing on it," Furlow said.

To view more of Furlow's work, visit claudiafurlow.wordpress.com.

ENEMY

WELCOME TO THE SUN BELT



ON CAMPUS
The University System of Georgia Board of Regents has implemented new rules for Georgia Southern University's campus regarding alcohol use. See page 4.

DRINK and that RUINS YOUR LIFE
It's time to REEVALUATE your life.

What really RUINS YOUR LIFE is losing YOUR SON.

MICHAEL'S LAW
Gatto's new legislation

THE GEORGE-ANNE
Michael's Law: Gatto's new legislation. See page 4.

THE GEORGE-ANNE

"He was never sad, he was never mad. He was always happy."

"He would walk with his arms outstretched and he would smile at everyone."

REMEMBERING MICHAEL GATTO

"I would really be myself while I was around him. He would make everyone feel that way."

"I was really, really lucky to have him as my best friend."

"He was the most outgoing, carefree person anyone would ever know."

"He cared about everyone."

NEVER GO TO COMPETE

GO TO WIN

ARTS HANGS UP ON CELLPHONES

STATESBORO NIGHTLIFE TRENDS

THE GEORGE-ANNE

NEVER GO TO COMPETE

GO TO WIN

ARTS HANGS UP ON CELLPHONES

STATESBORO NIGHTLIFE TRENDS

THE GEORGE-ANNE

MIGOS BOOKED FOR SPRING CONCERT

Hip-hop group Migos will be the featured artist by students for this year's spring concert and is scheduled to perform on April 18. Tickets will go on sale this Thursday. See page 4 for full story.

GA TECH FOOTBALL: JAMES KINGSLEY

GA TECH FOOTBALL: JAMES KINGSLEY

THE GEORGE-ANNE

Rude Rudy's is a predatory establishment. Like a pedophile owning a candy shop next to a preschool.

NEW CONFERENCE, NEW COACH, SAME HATE

A Year in Review

THE GEORGE-ANNE

HANGOVER EDITION

FOOTBALL IS BACK!

THE EAGLES BEGIN A NEW ERA ON SATURDAY

THE GEORGE-ANNE

"YOU CAN GET BITTER OR YOU CAN GET BETTER."

ARCHIE MANNING

ZAXBYS TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

THE GEORGE-ANNE

DOO STOMP DASH FEST

HOMECOMING: VANDALS VS TRADITIONS

THE GEORGE-ANNE

SHANE GOES LEFT

"I like to tell people that I had no direction until I chose left."

Shane Nelson
GSU grad to walk 3,300 miles

Key players for baseball mid-season

What does QEP mean to me?

THE GEORGE-ANNE

FATAL SHOOTING

CAMPUS CRIMINALS RESULTS IN 3 ARRESTS

Check out GSU's latest theatrical experience 'Metamorphoses'.

POSSIBLE \$11 MILLION DAMAGE CLAIM ON THE CITY OF STATESBORO

EAGLES SWEEP IN UGA SERIES

THE GEORGE-ANNE

WHITE OUT

SOUTHERN NOT STATE

"...Whiteout at Paulson North. Let's do it."

THE GEORGE-ANNE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH FIRED

GSU CELEBRATES THE HOLI FESTIVAL

EAGLES LOSE TO GEORGIA STATE

THE GEORGE-ANNE

CREATIONISM IN CLASS?

MEDIA DAY 2014

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ON PAGE 14

THE GEORGE-ANNE

DOES GSU HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?

CUFFING SEASON

THE MAN BEHIND THE EAGLE

EAGLES WIN FIRST SUN BELT GAME

THE GEORGE-ANNE

ADIÓS, MIGOS

First look at the 2015 Eagle football team at the Blue-White game

They're back: owner of South & Vine opens new restaurant

THE GEORGE-ANNE

PAINTBALL

THE TWITTER HABITS OF @PRESKEEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#PLEASEDON'TSHOOT

THE GEORGE-ANNE

Caitlyn Baggett

Morgan Bass

Emily Clark

Abbie DeLoach

Catherine "McKay" Pittman

Campus greets over the loss of five Georgia Southern University students in a fatal car accident: two students recovering in hospital

SEE PAGE 2, 3 & 7

A Year in Review

2014-2015

August 28

18-year old Georgia Southern University freshman Michael Gatto died after being assaulted outside of Rude Rudy's bar near campus. He had only been at GSU for two weeks before his death. Grant Spencer, a 20 year old GSU student, was charged with felony murder following Gatto's autopsy. Over the past few months, Gatto's parents have been heading a bill they call Michael's Law which has a multitude of stipulations that would offer further protection to young adults as well as make bars are held accountable for all things that happen under their jurisdiction.



Nov. 29, 2014: Sun Belt championship win over UL-Monroe

It was certainly the season of dreams for the Georgia Southern football team after they defied nearly all predictions and cut through the entire Sun Belt conference on their way to a 9-3 season and a Sun Belt Championship. Before they could hoist the trophy, they had to take down the UL Monroe Warhawks in the final game of the season and in Paulson Stadium.

February 2015

The Theatre Department wins big at the Kenedey Center Honors in Washington DC. Race is loved by audiences at the competition and takes home several awards.

February 11, 2015:
University Plaza up for sale



March 8, 2015: Women's basketball head coach fired

For three seasons, Chris Vozab was the head coach of the women's basketball team at Georgia Southern. She was putting together a team of highly athletic individuals and recruited a few transfer players. Unfortunately, things did not come together quickly enough for Coach Vozab.

Through her three seasons at Georgia Southern Vozab compiled a record of 23-68. Last season, things only seemed to get worse as the Lady Eagles went on a 15-game losing streak on their way to a 5-24 season. However, with the season nearly at its conclusion, Vozab and the Lady Eagles went on the road and snapped their losing streak with a win over Georgia State, 82-74. Vozab was relieved of her duties the day following the win.

March 24, 2015:
Archie Manning speaks



March 31, 2015:
Kip Drown announced as women's basketball head coach



April 18: MIGOS arrested at Spring Bling Concert

Following their already delayed Spring Concert, Georgia Southern's chosen artist, rap trio Migos, along with their posse, 15 individuals in total, were all arrested by the Statesboro Police Department.

According to a press release, multiple firearms and marijuana were all found in the vehicles transporting Migos and their crew. The Statesboro-Bulloch Crime Suppression "detected a very potent smell of marijuana" coming from the vans which was just cause for a search of the vans.

While more than 2,000 tickets were sold for the event, 1,600 of which bought by GSU students, there were no refunds distributed.

The University later released a statement addressing that while university officials were aware of the violence that has recently followed the rap group, considering they were the majority vote for GSU students' spring concert, the "didn't want to override" who the students wanted to perform.



August 1, 2014

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents' policy restricting tobacco on USG campuses began being enforced and almost all forms of nicotine were officially banned from GSU's campus. The ban includes dip, chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vaporizers and clove cigarettes.

September 19, 2014: First GSU appearance in Sun Belt

Georgia Southern Athletics made its debut in the Sun Belt conference when the volleyball team hosted rival App State. The volleyball team was the first athletics team to represent Georgia Southern in the Sun Belt. The Eagles lost the game 0-3 to a Mountaineer team that went on to finish the season 21-10.



September 20, 2014: First Sun Belt conference win

The football team was the first GS athletic team to win a Sun Belt matchup. The football team traveled to take on South Alabama and defeated the Jaguars 28-6.

Kevin Ellison and Matt Breida led the way for the Eagles, racking up a combined 292 rushing yards. It would be the first win for an Eagle team that would go undefeated in its inaugural season in the Sun Belt.

February 5, 2015: Eagles host sell-out crowd against Ga. State

The men's basketball team hosted in-state rival Georgia State in front of a sellout crowd at Hanner Fieldhouse. The Eagles defeated the Panthers 58-54 in a wild game that came down to the last minute.

Mike Hughes had 15 points to lead the Eagles in scoring, and Jelani Hewitt added 13 points, including some crucial free throws in the final minutes to seal the game.



March 4, 2015

The Theatre Department presents "Metamorphosis," a show that is another hit with students. The set incorporates a pool, projections, and spot-on choreography.

March 15, 2015: Men's basketball finishes No. 2 at Sun Belt tournament

G Kevin Ware scored 18 points and F Eric Ferguson's last-second three-point attempt bricked off the glass as the Panthers beat Georgia Southern 38-36 to claim the 2015 Sun Belt Championship today. This was the lowest scoring Sun Belt conference tournament game of all time.

Georgia Southern had the ball under their own basket with :05.1 left to play. G Mike Hughes inbounded the ball to Ferguson on the left wing. Ferguson jab-stepped right, went left and let it fly with a hand in his face. The ball was on line, but it was too far and hit the glass then the rim and bounced off.



March 30:
New Zaxby's opens



April 22

Five Georgia Southern University nursing students were killed in an accident on I-16 on their way to a hospital in Savannah to complete their clinicals.

Caitlyn Baggett, Morgan Bass, Emily Clark, Abbie Deloach, and McKay Pittman were all juniors in the nursing program.

The following day, GSU held a memorial in sweetheart circle to honor each one of the girls' lives and thousands of grieving students, faculty, staff and family attended to show each other support.

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I'LL TAKE A LITER OF COLA BY: TOMMY MARTIN



Senior sign-offs



ALEXANDRA MCCRAY

McCray is a graduating senior from Johns Creek, Ga. She has worked with Student Media for 2 years.

Well here it is, my farewell column. I've always enjoyed this George-Anne tradition and looked forward to reading them in years past. As I write this it still feels unreal to be on the brink of graduation myself.

Now I'm going to be honest with you, my goodbye column is going to be everything you expect. So I'll get right to it.

Here is my cliché advice to you all. Just enjoy it. Enjoy college. Bask in the four (... or five, or six) years of your adult life that you have to be completely irresponsible. It is far too easy to get caught up in constantly thinking about your future and always working towards the next step in life. But I can tell you a few things, I don't remember

how nervous I was to go to my first sorority recruitment event, but I do remember how it felt to find a sisterhood that made me a better person. I don't remember the classes I missed, but I do remember the hilarious walks back home from the plaza after celebrating a friends 21st. I don't remember the biology test I should have crammed for, but I do remember the day I spent at the pool freshman year instead and met one of my best friends who would later be taken before his time, and I'm thankful for those memories. I don't remember how worried I was about my random roommate, but I do remember our very first game day together and how it felt to scream "Georgia Southern" at the top of my lungs.

So enjoy your time here in college because in the blink of eye it's over. I hope our school helps you find what you are truly passionate about in life and gives you all the opportunities it can to help you chase that passion. I hope you find the people you can't imagine your life without like I did. I hope your time at Georgia Southern helps you grow, challenges you, inspires you, and leaves you with memories that will last a lifetime.

Because Tom Petty said it best "The work never ends, but college does..."



NADIA DREID

Dreid is a graduating senior from Statesboro, Ga. She has worked with Student Media for 1 years.

I'm so sadddd. Nadia noooooo. Don't leaveeee.

Graduating is weird. For four and a half years, I've been a student. My life has been filled with all the things students lives are filled with - friends and family, work and school, homework and more homework.

In fact, as I type this, my

laundry list of assignments to be completed glares at me from my computer screen. Next week will be spent scrambling, studying for exams and finishing final projects - and by lunchtime on Saturday, I'll be an alumna.

Friday, I'm a student. Saturday, I'm a graduate. When I realized this, my first thought was that I was wholly unprepared to enter the real world. Sometimes I still feel that way. But as I sat at the traffic light on Gentilly panicking over my impending adulthood, I remembered the person I was on my first day of classes and how different that girl was from the person I find myself to be now.

Ever since I was a little girl, all I wanted to do was write. When it came time to apply for colleges, there was never any question that my major would be journalism.

Being paid to write, as well as have a professional reason to ask all the nosy questions

I was already asking anyway seemed like a sweet deal. My professors taught me quickly that journalism is less about writing than it is about service, to the public and to the truth. It's about making sure the people in your community have enough information to be educated and effective citizens. It's about giving the marginalized a voice and keeping the powerful in check.

I will always be forever grateful to The George-Anne for providing me with an opportunity to practice my profession while benefiting my school. It was the first place to give me a chance. I'm not sure yet where I'm going or what I'm doing, but Georgia Southern has taught me that I'm smart enough to figure it out. Eventually.

Eagle Nation, it has been an honor and a privilege to report for you for the last year and a half. Hail Southern and no place else.

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear GSU,

It's hard to put into words how much GSU has impacted my life. It hasn't always been clear, blue skies. It's been hard work but I know it has made me a stronger person since becoming a Georgia Southern Eagle. Our relationship was a little bumpy at the start. As an incoming freshman driving on to Sweetheart Circle Drive to see the GSU hedges, I couldn't help but think—like many grumpy eighteen-year-olds—that I was too good for this, and I regretted not going to UGA. But as the days turned to weeks, months, and years at Georgia Southern University, this rocky road I had stumbled on became a home for a guy who still had a lot of growing up to do.

We've been through a lot together, you and I. Over four years, we've faced slack-classes and eye-opening classes, campus tragedies that brought our school together and watching "Freedoms Flight" before each and every football game.

We've braved the all-nighters and the hangovers, even the all-night parties that led to those hangovers, the stress of last minute studying and planning spring break trips. The list goes on. But through it all, I kept coming back for more. Before long, you were seamlessly woven into the tapestry of my life like I was meant to be an Eagle all along. Coming to you with so much excitement and eagerness, I soon realized how much growing up I had left to do, and you found a way to help me progress—by getting involved. From participating in the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement as a BUILD Leader/Build Returner, to becoming a founding father of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, GSU taught me different things and helped me navigate this unforgettable, life-changing experience we call "college".

And what would I have done without the people to help me along the way? You weren't just an institution;

you were much more than that. You brought together some of the most fantastic people I have ever met—people I would never have met without you, and will never forget. The friends I've made here have challenged me, engaged me, and pushed me forward to mature and flourish into the person I am now. A person, that four years ago I never thought I could be today.

So thank you, GSU. I, and many over-eager kids like me, needed you to move us forward and usher us into this new life. I don't know what I would've done without you. And so, as I prepare to walk across the stage and into a new chapter of life, I say, One More Time... Hail Southern and No Place Else.

EDWARD KEARNEY

Graduating senior marketing and management major

I've got 99 problems but a #GSUproblem ain't one



PEYTON CALLANAN

Callanan is a graduating senior from Chuluota, FL. He has worked with Student Media for 3 years.

(Hey, Hey) Bye, Bye, Bye.

I know most readers will glance at this section of the paper and find these goodbye columns very self-serving or think that we just wanted to do less work during the last week of classes and I would understand if you didn't read them.

However, these columns are our way of letting dedicated staff members say goodbye to an organization that became a group of their closest friends, to a campus that became their homes and to a community that became their family over the course of four (or five, or six...) wonderful, stressful, inspirational and truly memorable years.

Working for a college paper can be just as frustrating as it is rewarding. You are on campus all day and well into the night, you are constantly emailing, calling, or casually stalking sources and

hitting happy hour seems like the only way to cope with neverending deadlines.

I still clearly remember the first article I ever wrote for this paper three years ago and it is hard to believe now that this is the very last thing I will ever write for it. No more articles about unique student organizations, no more reviews about the latest movie (I saw more movies alone than anyone should) and no more columns with about five pop culture references too many.

At times I wondered if working for Student Media was worth all of the extra stress and late nights but I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to help create several different publications and special events during my time in this organization (seriously though, I had more jobs than Ryan Seacrest).

Though our staff isn't always perfect, we love being a part of the Eagle Nation and being able to celebrate its highs and help students understand its lows. This paper, and Student Media as a whole, is constantly growing and changing and I know that in just a few years it will be much different than when I left it, but I hope I was able to leave at least a little bit of an impact on an organization that had such a huge impact on me. Apologies to Matt Damon, I ran out of time.

How Far Have We Come?



PARRISH TURNER

Turner is a graduating senior writing major from Roswell, Ga. He is involved in the gay straight alliance.

Before there was The George-Anne, there was The Eagle. It was started in '83 as a branch of the Statesboro Herald and copies can be found in the library archives. In search of one particular column, I found myself shifting through newspapers from an entire decade. Covered with ads and horribly expired Arby's coupons, these newspapers are

a small time capsule of what the world looked like 30 years ago.

Or at least they would be, if the headlines all didn't seem eerily familiar. Theater South is opening a new show. Student fees and cost of tuition are on the rise. There are several weeks worth of letters to the editor about race and the race related protests.

Yes, similar names pop up. Darin Van Tassel, a current professor in the political science department, then Georgia Southern College junior, is quoted about the presence of witches in Statesboro. There is an interview with Mical Whitaker about his upcoming work, and this year, Whitaker will be participating in the celebration of 30 years of African American Theater at GSU.

While the nostalgia

is nice, have we really come anywhere? The letters to the editor ask about the treatments of minority students, the rise of AIDS and providing safe sex education for students, rising tuition costs, discussions about Christians on Campus. Almost every single opinion piece could be republished now and few would be the wiser.

That is, until I come to the article raving about the new invention: The Remote Control. This device is going to change the way you watch TV. And I read the article about the school beginning to offer services for rape survivors. And I read the article about how Bob Dole is a shoe in for president. And I think about just how different the world actually is. And how much further we have to go.

"I have been privileged to work with my talented friends in Student Media these past two years. Thank you for expanding my design abilities far past what I thought I was capable of. I hope I get the chance to work with some of you out in the real world."

-Alexandra Tobia (Design Editor)



STATESBORO CONCERT SERIES

March 26 - The Steppin Stones

April 2 - Atlas Road Crew

Opener: PIANO.

April 9 - Archnemesis

Opener: DJ Animosity

April 16 - Dank (formerly Dank Sinatra)

Opener: The Orange Constant

April 23 - Gimme Hendrix (Jimi Hendrix
Tribute)

April 30 - Ryan Kinder Band

Opener: Nate Kenyon

COUNTER POINT

OFFICIAL
PRE-PARTIES



HOSTED BY: **125**



— 18th Annual — STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS

SMALL STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Mock Mediation Club

LARGE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Residence Hall Association

NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Mock Mediation Club

MOST IMPROVED STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Black Student Alliance

STUDENT ORGANIZATION - ADVISORS OF THE YEAR

Steve Sanders
Dr. Edward Mondor

BEST PROGRAMS OF THE YEAR

"Mardi Gras Madness"
Student Government Association
& Residence Hall Association

"Color the Campus for CF 5K"
Delta Phi Epsilon

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

"Church Interior Beautification Project"
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

OUTSTANDING CHARITABLE FUNDRAISER

"Derby Days"
Sigma Chi

GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP & SERVICE AWARD

Azell Francis
Brian Burns

KATHRYN GRUBE UNSUNG HEROES

Dr. Jacek Lubecki
Annie Paschal

HIGGS-McCARTER ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Natalie Walker

RIISING STAR AWARDS

Brittany Hughes
Christina Catchings

Emily Elizabeth
Shannon

Jonathan Templeton
Kady Crump

SOUTHERN TALON AWARDS

Abigail Ormsby
Eddison Smith III

Jamal Wright
Konnelius Martin

Nosa Nwaonumah
Racheal Lamb

JOHN F. NOLEN JR. HALL OF LEADERS AWARDS

Ashley Landry
Carrie West

Jacoby Carpenter
James "Major" Woodall

James "Mason" Graham
Briana Daugherty

OMICRON DELTA KAPPA DISTINGUISHED EAGLE AWARD

Azell Francis

Baseball over the summer:

What to keep an eye out for



BRANDON WARNOCK

Sophomore Evan Challenger has the best ERA on the team and the most strike outs. He has an undefeated 5-0 record.

BY LAYNE SALIBA
The George-Anne staff

Baseball season is coming to a close and the Eagles are in a good place to take the league. Georgia Southern currently sits 2.5 games behind Georgia State and 1.5 games ahead of South Alabama.

Although the Eagles (26-18, 16-8 SBC) are in the No. 2 spot, that does not mean it will be an easy ride. They still have to play No. 3 South Alabama (29-16, 14-7 SBC) this weekend, and then go on a tough road trip to Clemson (23-21). This is followed by another road trip to Atlanta to face No. 1 Georgia State (26-18, 13-6 SBC) after playing a mid-week game against Kennesaw State (24-20).

However, with the way the Eagles have been playing on the weekends, it is not an impossible task to jump ahead of Georgia State in the conference standings. The Panthers are on a three-game losing streak and could drop any number of games against their two remaining conference opponents in Texas State (18-24-1, 10-11 SBC) or Troy (25-20, 13-8 SBC).

However, before the Eagles can think about Georgia State, they must focus on South Alabama.

Georgia Southern vs. South Alabama

The Jaguars are on a four-game winning streak and have one player, redshirt sophomore Cole Billingsley, with a batting average that places him in the

league's top ten. Billingsley is also tied for third in hits and second in triples.

If the Eagles' pitching staff stays healthy and continues to play like they have this season, it should not be hard to stop Billingsley from making contact with the ball. He also likes to steal, but with redshirt sophomore LHP Evan Challenger's four pickoffs this season, he may be a little more hesitant to leave the bag.

However, South Alabama has the league's second best pitcher with a 2.22 ERA who also has the most strikeouts in the league (66) and seven total wins.

This may give the Eagles trouble as they have two players tied for No. 1 in strikeouts with 45 a piece on the season.

Georgia Southern vs. Clemson

The Clemson series will be held in Clemson, South Carolina and should be a good one as far as talent goes. Anytime an Atlantic Coast Conference team is featured, it is not an easy win. However, the Tigers are third in the ACC and have not been doing too well this season with a .523 winning percentage.

Although this game may not mean much since it is not against a conference opponent, if the Eagles are able to come out with a series win against Clemson, their confidence will be in a good place as they prepare for their final series of the regular season a weekend later.

Georgia Southern vs. Georgia State

Finally, there are the Panthers. The last series of the season may be for the No. 1 seed in the conference, which would put the Eagles in good position for their second straight conference championship after winning the Southern Conference last season.

The Georgia State series without a doubt will be a game of power as Georgia State's junior Matt Rose holds the No. 1 spot in slugging percentage (.680), and the Eagles' senior OF Aaron Mizell comes in at No. 2 (.634). Rose has hit just two more homeruns than Mizell but has five less total bases.

The Eagles have the best pitcher in the league, Challenger. Challenger (5-0) holds a 1.06 ERA and has struck out 50 batters - 18 looking. He has a strong arm that enables him to retire batters who otherwise may be able to make contact with the ball.

Having junior RHP Chris Brown in the lineup also relieves a little bit of the nerves for the pitching staff. If any of the pitchers get into any sort of trouble, Brown has no problem coming in and getting the save. He already leads the league with nine.

If you are in Statesboro, be sure to come out to all of the games that you can. Having the support of the fans in the stands will play a large part in the team's success as they head into the Sun Belt conference tournament this summer.

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BY ROBERT
GEORGE
The
George-Anne staff

MVP'S OF THE

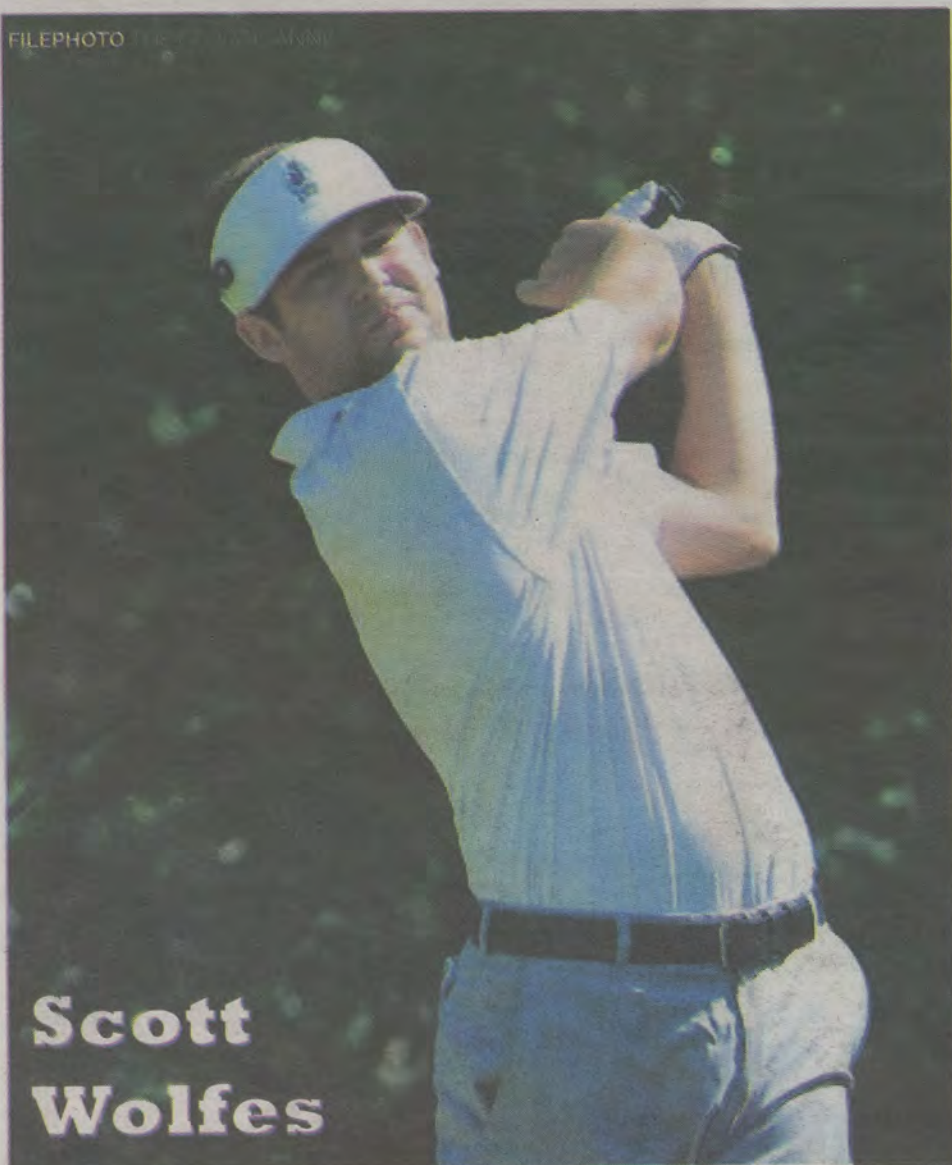


BRANDON WARNOCK THE GEORGE-ANNE

Edwin Jackson

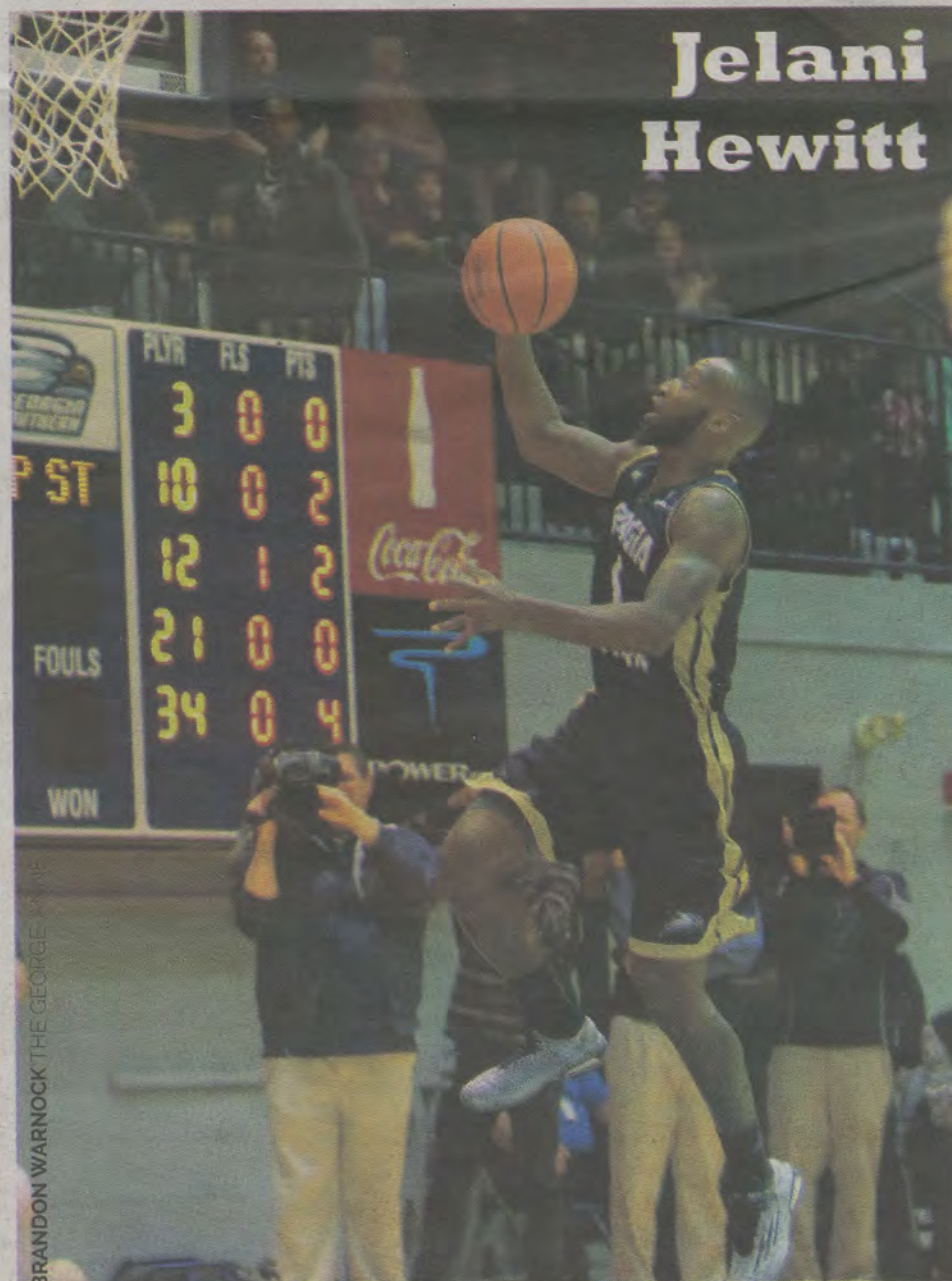
Edwin Jackson is a senior International Trade major from Atlanta, Ga. He led the Eagle's defense with 100 tackles, averaging 8.3 per game in his senior season. He was named to the Sun Belt first team defense and was invited to play in the Medal of Honor Bowl.

FILEPHOTO THE GEORGE-ANNE



Scott Wolfes

Scott Wolfes is a senior marketing major from St. Simons, Ga. He posted four top-5 finishes this year and averaged 71.00 per round. Wolfes helped lead the Eagles to their second consecutive conference championship and their ninth conference title in school history.



BRANDON WARNOCK THE GEORGE-ANNE

Jelani Hewitt

Jelani Hewitt is a senior general studies major from Miramar, Fla. He led the team with 17.6 points, 3.7 assists and 2.5 steals per game. He was named the Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year, and was voted to the Sun Belt All Conference team (Coaches) and the Lefty Driesell Defensive All America team. He leaves as the all-time steals leader in Georgia Southern history.

2014-15 SEASON

Anne Kurzweil was named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year after finishing 12-0 in singles play in the regular season. She was also named to the All Conference second team. She dominated the competition, winning nine of her matches in straight sets. She is from Halden, Germany and plans to major in Sports Management.



Anne Kurzweil

Aaron Mizell is a senior general studies major from McRae, Ga. This year, he has hit .318 and leads the team with 56 hits, 37 RBI's, and has totaled 12 home runs, 12 doubles and 39 runs scored. He received the first Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week award in Georgia Southern history in Week 10.

Aaron Mizell



FILEPHOTO THE GEORGE-ANNE



Elaina Lanson

Elaina Lanson is a senior communications major from Wadsworth, Ohio. She competed in the 2014-2015 Arena Pro Swim Series in Orlando, Fla. She swam the 50m freestyle, and finished No. 18 overall with a time of 26.89.



Jack Falle

BRANDON WARNOCK THE GEORGE-ANNE

Jack Falle is a junior management major from Lilburn, Ga. He was named to the second team all conference and was named Defensive Player of the Week in the opening week of the season. He was ranked sixth nationally with 5.87 saves per game.

GSU ALUM RUNS BOSTON MARATHON DESPITE INJURIES



BY EMMA COLLINS & MARQUS WILLIAMS

The George-Anne staff



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEIGHANNE HERSEY
GSU alum LeighAnne Hersey finished the Boston Marathon in 3:40:47.

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- 5/01** CONCERT Choral Recital 7:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396
- 5/02** THEATRE An Evening of African-American Theatre 7:30 p.m. Black Box Theatre, Center for Art & Theatre; 912.478.5379
- 5/02** CONCERT Opera Scenes 5 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396
- 5/02** CONCERT Faculty Strings Concert 8 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396
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- 5/03** CONCERT Strings Festival Gala 3 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396
- 5/04-5/08** THEATRE Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition University & Contemporary galleries, Center for Art & Theatre; 912.GSU.ARTS

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



While most Georgia Southern students were either in class or relaxing by the pool, GSU alum LeighAnne Hersey was running in the rainy, forty-degree weather, as one of 32,000 runners in the 2015 Boston Marathon.

Hersey, who graduated from Georgia Southern in 1997 with a degree in Business Administration, began running around the age of four. Running and fitness were a big part of her life at Georgia Southern; she taught group fitness classes at Gold's Gym in Statesboro. For Hersey, running is a form of free therapy. During the last ten years, she has become an avid competitive runner and has completed seven marathons and many half-marathons, which is her favorite distance race.

To qualify for the 2015 Boston Marathon, Hersey—38-years old at the time—ran the 2013 Jacksonville Bank Marathon. She needed a time of 3:40:00 to qualify for the 35-39 age group. Unfortunately, it poured rain for the duration of the marathon, creating less-than-ideal conditions for a qualifying time. Because of inclement weather, clocks were taken down. Hersey's Garmin watch quit working, and she had difficulty gauging her time. Hersey finished the race in 3:40:57.

"I tried quite honestly. I knew my time would have been better in better conditions. On the way to the hotel, my husband mentioned that I would be 40 at the Boston 2015, which was what I was trying to qualify for. I quickly checked the website and sure enough, you must qualify at the age you will be on race day. I needed 3:45:00, and I had that with time to spare," Hersey said.

Fast-forward to 2015. Hersey began training early in the year for the Boston. Unexpectedly, though, she seriously injured her right knee eight weeks prior to race day. She suffered a complex tear in her meniscus and also learned that a cyst had developed. Shortly afterwards, she underwent surgery to repair the damage, refusing to give up on her Boston dreams. Her doctors told her that Boston was no longer a possibility, but Hersey knew otherwise.

Resilience and being able to push through pain are two qualities that every runner possesses, and Hersey is no exception. One week post-surgery, she began physical therapy and riding a stationary bike. Two weeks post-surgery, she was exercising on the elliptical, despite almost constant pain in her swollen knee.

"At twenty-five days post-surgery, I ran two and a half miles. I actually ran to my PT appointment. The next day, I ran three miles, and the next six. From there, I jumped to 10 and

15 miles with a day off in between," Hersey said.

Hersey had very little time to get in long distance runs, which are vital to marathon training. She ran distances ranging from 12 to 20 miles with a few shorter runs mixed in, but that was all she had time for.

On Race Day, 32,000 runners were driven to Hopkinton, Massachusetts where the starting line for the marathon is located. Due to the large number of runners, the race started in waves with thousands of runners in each single wave. Hersey was in the third wave of runners, and just as she began her 26.2 mile run toward the city of Boston in the cold and wind, rain began to fall.

Rainfall made the roads slick, which made it difficult for Hersey to move around slower runners. Around the sixth mile, she realized pushing herself was futile. She was running an 8:30-8:40 pace, and she decided not to waste energy getting around other runners. Instead, she settled in and enjoyed what she described as a party-like atmosphere.

"The people were great. They were cheering for you the entire race," Hersey said.

For Hersey, the most difficult part of the race were the hills from Mile 15 to 21, but she continued running the entire time. The best part of the race, however, was the last half mile from Hereford Street to Boylston Street. This is where, Hersey said, the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings set in for her.

"People were cheering, waving American flags, and chanting 'USA, USA, USA.' I started to cry, but had to get myself together because you cannot run while crying," Hersey said.

Hersey finished in 3:50:03 after weeks of training, surgery and recovery. She was cold, wet and shivering so badly she could hardly speak.

"It was a dream come true and overwhelming. I called my mother before they placed the medal around my neck. Then I called my husband and said, 'get me somewhere warm. Now!'" Hersey said.

Post-Boston, Hersey returned to her family in Waycross, Georgia and her job as the Marketing and Communications Director for the Childers Family YMCA. She will take a short respite from running, but plans to run a half-marathon in October and another marathon in January. For her, though, running the 2015 Boston Marathon is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that she will never forget.

FINAL SERIES FOR THE EAGLES

BY HAYDEN BOUDREAUX
The George-Anne staff

With only one series left in the Eagle softball season, the team is wrapping up their first losing season of Head Coach Annie Smith's four year tenure at Georgia Southern.

After graduating several seniors that were key players in their college careers, many viewed this season as a rebuilding year. The season began with four games against two of the best teams in college softball, Florida State and Kentucky. This season offered the lesser experienced Eagles a chance to get their feet under them and see the fast paced college game. The Florida Tournament ended with the Eagles leaving with four

losses but valuable experience moving forward.

Their first win came the following week in the Eagle Classic against Binghamton College in a high scoring 21-12 affair. The rest of the home tournament saw four straight losses at the hands of Tennessee Tech, Campbell and Boston College. The losing streak continued for two more games against Eastern Kentucky and UNC until a close 3-2 win against Bradley.

Things began looking up for the Eagles as they headed down south for the USF Tournament. After nearly defeating USF, they trounced Rhode Island 7-2 and followed with a 2-1 victory over Maine. Two non-conference wins gave the team a moral boost

before heading into Sun Belt play for the first time.

First up was Texas State, a top competitor for the Sun Belt tournament, in the opening conference series. The home series ended in the Eagles being swept by the Bobcats by a total of 19 runs to six.

Faith was rebounded with two straight wins against New Mexico, but they then had to face the top of the conference University of Louisiana Lafayette. The Ragin Cajuns used their top hitters to sweep the Eagles in the bayou by a combined 29-3 including a shutout.

The team then headed west to Austin and broke the three game losing streak with a 3-1 win over the University of Texas. Their next win came

at the tail end of a three game series against UT-Arlington after racking up 13 runs. The University of Georgia took a swing at the Eagles and came away with an 11-0 shutout.

A series with UL Monroe continued the losing streak after the team dropped three games to the Warhawks. The Eagles traveled up to Boone for the chance to play longtime rival Appalachian State.

The Mountaineers were put in their place as the Statesboro faithfuls watched their team sweep the series with a score of 34-14. They followed up their three strong wins with a split in a two game series with Jacksonville.

South Alabama shut out the Eagles in two games on their way to sweeping the

series the following week. The sweep led the Eagles to six losses including a three-game series sweep by Troy, a loss to South Carolina and two losses to Mississippi State. This brings the team to where they currently stand with a record of 12 wins and 35 losses.

There is still a chance for the Eagles to enter the Sun Belt tournament, as it accepts eight of the nine teams in the conference, and they currently sit at number eight. If they can manage to hold their own against Georgia State, then they can solidify their spot in the conference tournament to have a shot to steal the show in Texas.



CRISTEN GULLATT THE GEORGE-ANNE

Junior **A.J. Hamilton** has started every game for the Eagles since her arrival in 2013. This season she has totaled five home runs.

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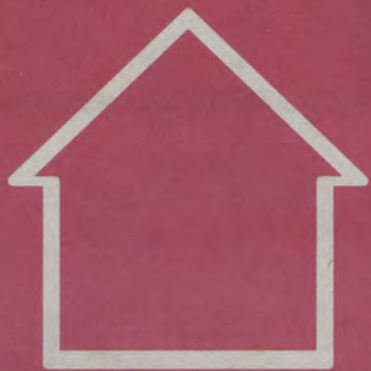




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