Professor accused of misusing state funds

BY LINDSAY GASKINS
The George-Anne staff

Calculus professor Steven Damelin traveled to Albany for personal reasons using state funds, according to an investigation report by the Georgia Southern University Office of Audit and Advisory Services.

The George-Anne received the travel documents on April 13 from the Office of Audit and Advisory Services after filing a request for the investigation report.

Damelin, who holds a doctorate in mathematics, stated that his trip was to conduct research with William Glover, an undergraduate music student, about the mathematics of music.

Damelin said he was not sure if this research would produce any results, according to an investigation report issued by Jana Briley, director of the Office of Audit and Advisory Services.

Glover stated that he and Damelin met by email through an Internet service and they were having a secret relationship, according to the report.

Damelin said that Glover was a musician he met through a mutual friend and had great knowledge of music. He was a potential collaborator with Damelin for a possible paper Damelin was in the process of writing, according to the report.

Glover said he knew Damelin was using state funds for the trip, but was not aware that Damelin was writing a paper, according to the report.

Upon arrival in Albany, Damelin checked into the Regency Inn at 2:45 p.m., according to the report.

Glover said he and Damelin checked in to the Regency Inn for personal reasons, according to the report.

Two hours later, at 4:47 p.m., Damelin checked out of the Regency Inn, according to the report.

See DAMELIN, page 3

Dean search nearing conclusion

BY TAYLOR COOPER
The George-Anne staff

The search for a new dean of students is nearing its conclusion and the final three candidates have been invited to meet students and tour the campus.

The committee that was formed to select the new dean began interviewing 80 applicants for the position by phone and has narrowed the candidates down to three, Vince Miller, director of student affairs and chair of the dean search committee, said.

“Dean search very close to conclusion,” Miller said.

“The number one thing that we’re looking for in a candidate is student-centered — someone who has experience working with students and collaborating with other departments,” Dorsey Baldwin, assistant director of career services and member of the search committee, said.

“We also want someone who is experienced in building relationships across campus with students, faculty and administration.”

The final three candidates will be in Statesboro on

See DEAN SEARCH, page 7
Steak ‘n Shake to open in the ‘Boro on May 17

BY TAYLOR COOPER
The George-Anne staff

A new Steak 'n Shake, located on Brannen Street next to Cracker Barrel, is nearly complete and set to open May 17 at 9:30 a.m. Steak 'n Shake, once it opens, will be a 24-hour restaurant.

"The construction is going great. The general contractor has been doing good. Our original goal was to have construction finished in a hundred and four days, and we're coming in a couple of days under the goal," owner of Steak 'n Shake Mike Heyden said.

The community reaction has been positive, regional manager Richard Toms said.

"It has been huge. Not a day goes by that we don't have somebody stop in and welcome us or tell us how excited they are to eat here," Toms said.

"So far, we've had many people driving by and inquiring and turning in applications from (Georgia Southern University) and the surrounding area," Heyden said.

"We're excited and we think it will be a great addition to the eating choices in Statesboro," Heyden said.

The restaurant will feature a new floor plan that has only been used in a few locations, Toms said.

"The founders of Steak 'n Shake had a saying: 'In sight it must be right.' Our kitchen is open, so you can see it all," Jody Cason, manager of Steak 'n Shake, said.

Some of the staff members are still going through training, Heyden said.

"Richard Toms has been training since January. The rest of the management team has been training since mid-February, so they are well trained," Heyden said.

"The manager training is intensive. The first day you have to wash dishes, and the second you have to cook burgers. They want you to know the system top-down and bottom-up," Cason said.

"We started orientation of hourly employees today (April 30). They will be done sometime next week. The managers have to go through a ten-week training program. Two of them are currently on-site and two are training in Jacksonville," Toms said. "The managers are in great shape. They will do a great job."

Heyden said, "I think that the Steak 'n Shake provides a good value for our customers and appreciate the support we've received so far. We look forward to serving good food in the years to come."
Police Beat

Monday, April 23
- Officers issued three traffic citations, two traffic warnings, assisted two motorists, responded to one sick person call and responded to one alarm.
- A bicycle was taken from the Henderson Library bike rack.
- Johnathan Rashad Macon, 20, was charged with theft by receiving stolen property.

Tuesday, April 24
- Officers issued five warnings, seven citations, and assisted six motorists.
- Jordan Todd Robertson, 20, was charged with minor in possession of alcohol, possession of a fake ID, disorderly conduct, and giving false information.
- Stephen Hurston Rosser, 18, was charged with theft by receiving stolen property.
- A bicycle was taken from the Biology Building bike rack.
- A resident of Centennial Place reported being harassed.
- A Community Leader at Eagle Village reported being harassed.
- Officers assisted the Statesboro Police in apprehending an individual suspected in several entering autos.

Wednesday, April 25
- Officers issued one traffic citation, four traffic warnings, assisted six motorists, responded to two alarms and investigated one accident.
- A case of harassment was reported at Health Services.
- A mirror was taken from a vehicle.

Thursday, April 26
- Officers issued three traffic citations, two traffic warnings, assisted one motorist, responded to one sick person call and responded to one alarm.
- A purse, a cell phone and a bicycle were taken from the RAC.
- A debit card was taken from Kennedy Hall.
- A book was taken and a TV damaged at Watson Hall.

Friday, April 27
- Officers issued two traffic citations, five traffic warnings and responded to one injured person call.
- A mirror was taken from a vehicle at Eagle Village.
- Zachary Mitchell Cooper, 19, was charged with DUI, open container violation and stop sign violation.
- Cody Luke Pridemore, 19, was charged with underage possession of alcohol, criminal trespass and possession of a fake ID.

DAMELIN, from page 1

Damelin said the early checkout was because the hotel was incredibly noisy and busy, and it was dirty and scruffy, according to the report.

Damelin stayed with Glover’s friends overnight and could not remember whether Glover had given him directions to the home or if he had driven there, according to the report.

Damelin returned home the next day.

The Regency Inn manager said that he remembered Damelin staying there during Albany State University’s Homecoming earlier that year, according to the report.

Martha Abell, mathematical sciences department chair, reviewed his article, “On Approximate and Exact Alignment of Date in Euclidean Space” on Jan. 5, 2010, and said there was no obvious correlation between math and music in the article, according to the report.

This led Briley to travel to Albany State to meet with Glover and review her findings about Damelin’s trip.

Following the investigation, police, with the assistance of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, arrested Damelin on March 3, 2010, charging him with falsifying documents and concealing facts.

Damelin pled under Alford vs. North Carolina, meaning he accepted the punishment while still maintaining his innocence. His charges were dropped to a misdemeanor of theft by deception.

He received 12 months probation and a $1,000 fine, according to the Statesboro Clerk of Courts records.

Damelin has been employed by GCU since 2000.

Wednesday, April 25
- Officers issued one traffic citation, four traffic warnings, assisted six motorists, responded to two alarms and investigated one accident.
- A case of harassment was reported at Health Services.
- A case of harassment was reported at Eagle Village.
- A case of battery was reported at Eagle Village.
- A fight was reported at the College of Business Building.
- De'ahmoz Osmic Floyd, 18, was charged with disorderly conduct.

Correction

Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.
Our View

Move to FBS is good if budget allows

In the previous edition of The George-Anne, we reported on the progress of Georgia Southern University's football team to the FBS, the highest level of collegiate competition.

This move would have multiple benefits and costs for GSU. The main benefits include an expansion of GSU’s reputation on a national level and a higher stage from which the university can be promoted.

However, this will not be without financial cost. According to President Keel, the athletic department currently has a $36 million plan overall.

This cost will be spread through improved athletic facilities, increased coaching salaries and the renovations around Paulson stadium that are set to begin this spring.

In the long run, we believe that an eventual move to FBS will be a positive move for GSU.

However, the current priorities need to focus on the academics.

With recent increases in tuition prices, the lack of pay raises for GSU professors and the higher student-to-teacher ratios, our budget should focus on immediate academic needs.

We strongly support the advancement of GSU’s football program, but this is only acceptable as long as academics are not sacrificed.

You will survive your finals

If you’re reading this right now, then get back to work. Finals are upon us and every word of this you read is going to further your procrastination.

Now, since you are going to continue procrastinating, I can at least be of service by helping you get through “Hell Week” with most of your sanity intact.

With finals a week away, you are probably going to be spending a good portion of your time in our wonderful Henderson Library. You may even spend some of that time studying for finals. Lucky for you, I am here to provide some tips for surviving that environment. I encourage all of you to extend this advice to any of your friends in other universities.

First things first, make sure to bring some headphones with you to the library. The primary purpose of this is to block out all the noise from that other guy's headphones. You know him. He’s the guy who apparently put his headphones on inside out and is determined to blast the library with that song you can’t stand.

The music you listen to can also have an impact on your finals performance. Is your iPod full of Nickelback or Ke$ha? Quit now, you're already failing your finals. Do you have an extensive Led Zeppelin playlist? Straight As are in your future!

Second tip: When you start looking for an open computer, pick one that is already surrounded by occupied computers. This may sound like a silly idea, but hear me out. You will soon be mobbed by a group of giggling girls that are trying to work on a last minute project together, as loudly as possible. You will soon be sitting right across from an incredibly affectionate couple that refuses to move their faces more than two inches apart at any time.

Third, let’s discuss provisions. I personally prefer a classic Red Bull, but many swear by the power of a Five-Hour-Energy shot. Either way, that Mountain Dew won’t cut it any more. For snacks, I advise pretzels. They lack the grease and cheese dust that so many other snacks are coated with. There is nothing worse than a greasy keyboard.

In the end, you need to remember one thing: Remain calm and get some rest. There is nothing to freak out about at this point. Don’t panic.

Seriously, your loud panicking is becoming a distraction. I have essays to finish.

LaSalle is a junior writing and linguistics major from Cumming, Ga.
Osama’s death, a year later

Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney didn’t want to give the president too much praise for killing Osama Bin Laden. It was referred to as a decision “even Jimmy Carter” would have made. Then a reporter suggested that there was excessive celebration around the anniversary that he was taken down a year ago today.

To address the first, I disagree with the fact that ANYBODY would have made this call. It’s arguably one of the easiest decisions a president would have to make. If you had a clear shot at a terrorist who was responsible for one of the most devastating attacks on US soil, would you take it?

I do, however, disagree that President Obama gets too much credit for it. This was a big moment in our history and he should be recognized for it.

There are two moments I remember well, and will likely remember for the rest of my life: September 11, 2001, when I was on my way to class in Bert Rumble Middle School, I looked at the TV in the middle of the lobby and saw what was happening. Living in a military town, the panic was amplified and my classmates were being pulled out of school left and right. We didn’t fully understand what was going on, but we knew it was important.

May 1, 2011, I was in Burkhalter watching the Phillies on Sunday night baseball. It was late in the game and out of nowhere you hear a distinctive chant of “USA! USA!” Then the announcers informed us that SEAL Team Six eliminated Osama Bin Laden halfway across the world.

This was the beginning and end of an era—an era in which Bin Laden would release tapes, seemingly taunting us for not being able to find him. This brought a sense of satisfaction to the American people who were still reeling from this attack. This also brought forth a sense of fear—fear of retaliation and fear that an even more monstrous individual may take his place. This deserves celebration. This will be studied in history books for generations to come. I wasn’t aware of an excessive celebration by the president, but if there were a celebration, I wouldn’t mind one bit.

The war on terror will never end though, and I just hope that last year’s events don’t lure us into a false sense of security. When we become complacent, we leave ourselves vulnerable.

With that being said, I will end my final article. I’ll be walking across the stage in 11 days and, for better or worse, will be taking my opinions with me. I’d like to thank everybody who read my articles this past year and for offering your support and your criticism.

Good luck in whatever your future holds.

Roberts is a senior public relations major from Warner Robins, Ga.

From the right

The war on terror remains

One year ago today, SEAL Team Six stormed Osama Bin Laden’s hideout and finally got the man responsible for the worst terrorist attacks on the United States in our country’s history.

I don’t know about you, but the day that we finally could say that we got him was one of the most proud moments I’ve experienced in my very short life. Finally, we could give closure to the families of victims—innocent men and women just trying to live The American Dream—because the man who masterminded the whole plan was finally off the face of this Earth.

I must give credit to Obama for giving the command to pull the trigger on this operation, but the real credit goes to those soldiers and operators who not only risked their lives in the operation, but the months and years of careful intelligence gathering that led us straight to Osama’s doorstep.

While we have won this battle, the war on terror is not, nor will it ever be over. We have been fighting a war on terror for the past century; first with Germany when we became back to back World War champs, then Russia and Communism and now the war on Al Qaeda and radical Islamic terrorism.

We must keep in mind that it is not Islam that we are at war with; it is those who have bastardized the religion in order to spread a message of hate, just like the KKK uses Christianity to do.

We must keep up the support in Afghanistan and other terror-torn countries, but not just with military support. We must help them get their economies and infrastructures in order. We couldn’t have done that in the late 80s after we helped the Afghans get the USSR out. Instead, we left the country in ruin and let their contempt for us to fester.

But, today is a day of celebration. It is a day for us to remember the sacrifices our men and women endured to help our freedom live on. It’s also a day to remember that while we allow our differences to separate us on the surface, deep down we are all Americans. We are the beacon of freedom and prosperity for the world. We will always be One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All.

Chapin is a senior political science major from Roswell, Ga.

Letters to the Editor

Students continue to respond to GTSNP column

Dear Editor,

I have been reading the feedback to the “GTSNP virus” article, and I honestly think it is absolutely ridiculous that young adults are actually that sensitive about an opinion. I honestly believe the people that are offended and upset are the most faithful to the “GTSNP” trend.

The article was enlightening just to know that someone else could find humor in what many females assumed to be “fashion.” I am new to Georgia and this is my first semester at Georgia Southern, but in the few months I have been here I have witnessed more than enough GTSNP offenders.

I don’t think the article in any way had the intention of insulting people, rather make aware a fact that is obviously sweeping the nation. The issue comes when people over think the situation, the “GTSNP” article was not that big of a deal so I think people just really need to get over themselves and learn to laugh.

Maybe the real problem is not with the article itself, but insecurities that some of the student body live with that would actually allow them care that their “fashion” is criticized. (did you notice how I quickly turned the article into meaning something else?). Let’s all be real, this so called “fashion trend” is a hot mess that has gone too far, and its still my opinion. On the other hand, there are other issues that need as much attention from readers as this unfashionable infatuation but lack the intense feedback is lacking. I always look forward to picking up the George-Anne because I think it is a well organized school paper that keeps the student body informed and welcomes controversy. Keep the drama coming.

Laughing,
Tia Richmond
Senior
Political Science major
Alzheimer’s disease continues to affect many lives

In life there are moments that make up who we become as a person. They shape our personality, life goals and our relationships with others. But, what if you could never remember them?

Alzheimer’s disease is a disease that affects the memory and cognitive abilities of a human being.

“The Merriam-Webster dictionary says Alzheimer’s is “a degenerative brain disease of unknown cause that is the most common form of dementia, that usually starts in late middle age or in old age, that results in progressive memory loss, impaired thinking, disorientation, and changes in personality and mood, and that is marked histologically by the degeneration of brain neurons especially in the cerebral cortex and by the presence of neurofibrillary tangles and plaques containing beta-amyloid.”

Alzheimer’s doesn’t have a preference; it affects all races, religions and sexual orientations. It doesn’t matter how much money you currently have or your social status.

Two examples of this are legendary University of Tennessee women’s basketball head coach, Pat Summitt, and my paternal grandfather, William T. Hinely.

Summitt recently announced she is stepping down from the head coaching position after dealing with the early stages of dementia during the past women’s basketball season.

Summitt led the Lady Vols to an incredible record of 1,988-208, eight NCAA championships and 32 Southeastern Conference titles in her 38 years of coaching.

Doctors at the Mayo Clinic diagnosed Summitt at the age of 59 with Alzheimer’s type early onset dementia. After telling her diagnosis to the public before the season began, Summitt promised to face this challenge head-on like everyone expected her too.

Although Summitt has relieved some of her duties at the college, she will remain at the school and has been named head coach emeritus.

According to the University of Tennessee athletic site, some of Summitt’s responsibilities will be to serve as a liaison between the coaches and the Director of Athletics, serve in on-campus recruiting and will be a personal mentor to players.

However, my grandfather does not have the national recognition and accolades that Summitt has, yet the disease affects him just the same.

I know I’m not the only one that has had to experience this disease in the family. Too many of my peers have seen loved ones diagnosed and deteriorate right in front of their eyes.

Without a known cure for the disease, there are only a few things that families can do to dull their pain — that is reflection and remembrance.

Remember all the good and bad times you have had with your loved ones. Never forget a minute of all the pure joy, excitement and even pain you have experienced together.

Although the disease affects their mind, it can never affect your perception of that person and the times you have spent together. Remember all of their accomplishments and life achievements, big or small.

The pain will never go away of seeing a loved one suffer. Do what you can to help those around you and yourself achieve everything imaginable in your lifetime.

Now, I know this may seem like another “live every day like it’s your last” kind of speech, but seriously, take this into consideration in your everyday life.

Use everyday to connect with others, life is too short for hate and judgment.

At this time in our college years, we don’t know who will touch our lives negatively or positively yet.

But, remember to help others, take time to listen to those around you and commit a random act of kindness on a daily basis.

All of the experiences we are enjoying now will one day end up another memory.

Hinely is a junior journalism major from Newington, Ga.

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Humor and satire should not be taken so seriously

Dear Editor,

In response to what can only be classified as an overly emotional retaliation to the “GTSNP Virus” article written by Courtney Escher, I would like to voice my opinion.

The majority of the responses focused on the statements made by Ms. Escher regarding the intelligence of women for donning the style in question and the styles stereotypical association with Sororities.

Firstly, I would like to point out that the piece was a satire. Since all of the responses trumpeted that they were in fact educated, I feel it is safe to assume that all respondents know the definition of a satire. For those who need to get up to speed on this term, examples include the popular television shows South Park and Family Guy. I suppose that the respondents deem it appropriate to “destroy every copy” of these shows simply because they single out populations via flagrant demonstrations of the corresponding stereotypes in a satirical manner. I challenge the respondents to direct their righteous attitudes toward these shows constructed by “ Pretentious Offensive Writers” that fill the show with “ hyperbolic nonsense.”

In addition to being an obvious satire, the article was published in the “Opinions” section of The George-Anne. This is an obvious indication that all of the submitted material is rooted in the opinion of the author, and therefore not something that should cause an overwhelming backlash among students.

Disagreement, while completely allowed and encouraged, should not drive the respondents to outright and disrespectfully attack Ms. Escher’s character, as was done with several of the responses. It is ironic that so many self-proclaimed “ intelligent” people would allow emotion to cloud their ability to form a coherent argument without contradicting themselves in the process; it is unprofessional to chasitise a person’s character and professionalism simply because a person does not agree with them.

Furthermore, it is unprofessional to become overly emotional over a piece meant in jest.

As for those who felt that throwing statistics into their responses would somehow provide them with an air of professionalism, I would like to point out that while there was a mention of sorority girls in the original article, it did not extend the criticism to the entire Greek system.

By using logic, which is clearly in all of the respondents’ “intelligent” minds, it can be concluded that the article had absolutely nothing to do with the accomplishments of the GSU sororities.

Along with this, the article did not state or imply at any point that all sorority girls were “ stupid.” The article simply suggested sarcastically I might add — that those who choose to wear these clothes were insane.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Escher on making me, as well as countless others, laugh at a stereotype that is overly present at this school.

When everyone learns to embrace these rather than condemn those who choose to joke about them, authors will not have to deal with the childish whining of disagreeing populations.

The Walking Dead is awesome by the way.

Sincerely,

Josh Adams
Freshman
Information Technology Major
DEAN SEARCH, from page 1

May 1, 2 and 7 to be interviewed by university directors and staff, according to the on-campus interview schedule.

"The first two candidates will be here this week and the final one will be on Monday," Miller said.

The candidates will give presentations to and take questions from students in the Williams Center Multipurpose Room from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on those days, Baldwin said.

The presentation topic will be "What are two important issues facing college students today and how do you envision the Dean of Students office should support students through these challenges?"

"The committee really supports students being involved in the process. That's why we're trying to get the top three to campus, so students can be involved. Our hope is that they will come out and see their presentations and ask questions," Baldwin said.

"I hope all students that are available will make it to the open forum and give their feedback, because it is very important to the process," Miller said.

There will be multiple interviews for the candidates during their visit to GSU. The directors' interview and the staff interview will include the offices of the Dean of Students, Student Conduct, Fraternity and Sorority Relations, Multicultural Student Center and Student Media, according to the Dean of Students On-Campus Interview list.

The directors' interview will start at 10:00 a.m. The staff of these offices will then join the directors from 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. for the staff interview, according to the Dean of Students On-Campus Interview list.

The last interview will include Student Affairs and Enrollment Management from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., according to the Dean of Students On-Campus Interview list.

"So far, I think they're very qualified and look forward to spending more time with them," MacDonald said. "I'm excited to get a new dean. It will be nice to get a new person in this role, maybe even someone better than the old dean."

"I'm also looking at how they share those experiences and qualifications in the application documents or in interviews. Anyone can have that on a resume, but I want to see how they make that come alive," MacDonald said.

The decision is being based on the strategic vision for the university as well as each department's needs, Baldwin said.

"As most students know, the strategic vision for the university is promoting academic excellence, promoting student success, maintaining physical effectiveness," Baldwin said.

Each member of the dean search committee has their own set of qualities that they are looking for in the new dean, Miller said.

"I, as the chair of the search committee, don't have one single set of qualities I'm looking for. Each member of the committee is looking for characteristics that best suit the goals of their department and the students," Miller said. "We're trying to represent campus as best as possible with the committee."

"We're looking for solid experience and a diversity in that experience — very approachable for students, so they feel comfortable talking to them," Chris MacDonald, director of housing and member of the committee, said. "I'm looking for a solid professional who wants to collaborate with other departments."

"I want someone who is student-centered, who would be a great advisor to student government and someone who understands the growth and development that the university is taking part in," Student Government Association president and committee member Dominique Quarles said.

"I think they have outstanding qualities. They are from the resumes and the phone interviews, the best and the brightest," Quarles said. "Any one of them could go above and beyond the position and duties of dean of students."

"As the process goes on, I feel that we'll see how (the candidates) are different and unique and what they will bring," Miller said. "I feel any one of them could be our next dean of students."
Theatre South to bring 10 Minute Play Festival

BY KIMEKO MCCOY
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University student playwrights will watch on as their scripts come to life on the stage of the Black Box Theatre as Theatre South hosts its fifth annual Ten Minute Play Festival.

The first part of this year’s festival begins tonight at 7:30 p.m. and will feature four of the plays. The second part of the festival will begin tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m. and will showcase the remaining four plays.

“It’s a chance for young play writers to have their work seen,” one of the festival participants, Brock Vickers, senior theatre and journalism major, said. “We’re really excited about this year.”

This year’s festival is titled “8 by 10” due to the eight new plays that will be put on at the event in 10 minutes or less.

It was in full of 2011 when those who will be participating were chosen by a panel of judges to have their work presented in the “8 by 10” event.

Students participating in this year’s upcoming festival include Vickers with two plays titled, “A Film” and “Forgery.” Other works featured include senior theatre major Anastasia James’ “Waitress for Life,” senior writing and linguistics major Heath Harrington’s “Casualties of Heroes,” “Train to Brindisi” by freshman theatre major Dani McGee, “Devil’s Playground” by freshman writing and linguistics major Parrish Turner, “Words She Never Said” by senior theatre major Dionna Davis and “Daydream Fleet” by freshman computer science major Derik Wuchte.

Judges include GSU alumnna Carolyn Lea, assistant professor of communication studies Rebecca Kennerly, and assistant professor of journalism Camille Broadway.

Those participating have been putting forth efforts to perfect their work for the night of the presentation.

“We’ve been in workshop for the last eight weeks,” Vickers said. During this time in the workshop, those who are having their work showcased were given feedback on their work at Theatre South meetings.

“Each one of the plays has been workshopped,” Abbott said.

These include a few comedies, extensions of previous plays, commentaries on movies and dramas. Many of the playwrights are said to have mature content. Mature content for the evening ranges from strong language to some sexual content that some may find offensive, Vickers said.

“This year, we’ve got some really strong plays,” Abbott said. “The range of plays this year is a little bit more serious.”

On both nights, after the plays have been performed, those who wrote the plays will be allowed to have a response and feedback from those in the audience.

The idea behind the audience’s constructive criticism is not to change the play in its entirety, but for the student to get an idea of what the audience witnessed and their opinions on what they just saw in the play, Vickers said.

Vickers said Abbott encourages students to participate regardless of their work or role in theatre.

“She really wanted to give people an opportunity to write,” Vickers said.

Abbott is in charge of the event and oversees communication between the audience and the writers to be sure that there is constructive criticism.

Not only will those who have written plays have the opportunity to have their work seen by a live audience, but they will also have the chance to hear feedback from faculty, students and now those in the audience.

Vickers said.

‘Education Under Fire’ shines a light on Iran persecution

BY AMBER GORDON
The George-Anne staff

The Russell Union Theater was silent on Thursday night during the “Education Under Fire” event as the audience watched how a religious minority in Iran, the Baha’is, had its freedom of education stripped away from its followers.

As the presentation began, moderator Debra Sabia challenged students and staff members in the audience to just join the conversation but to act in defense of the Baha’is and other minorities in Iran.

“How would you feel if you were denied to go to any public or private school because of your religious affiliation?” Sabia said.

A panel of guests consisting of Christian Minister Frances Johnson, Georgia Southern University professor of education Dan Rea and Iranian Baha’is Nastin Rohuani and Evaz Fanaian talked about their opinions as well as their experiences dealing with the Iranian government.

Rohuani gave a tear-eyed testimony on how she, her children and her husband had to escape from Iran on motorcycles while Iranian officials raided their home. She went on to tell the audience how, through her struggles, she was able to become tougher.

“I want to assure you that going through hardship, especially when you lose a loved one, for some reason you become stronger. I would never have thought I would live and work long enough to become retired and have the comfort of being free here,” Rohuani said.

As a fourth generation Bahai, Fanaian shared several stories of how his family members were killed because they were of the Bahai faith. He also voiced his optimism on the United States allowing Bahais to be apart of the Bahai Institute of Higher Education to be able to have their credits to American universities transfer.

“American Academic Institute should open their hearts, minds and doors to these students. They are some of the smartest people to come out of the Middle East,” Evaz said.

The “Education Under Fire” documentary told the cruel tale of the systematic persecution of Bahais in Tehran, Iran. The documentary was filled with personal accounts and photos of desolated basements, cheaply made to become a classroom for the Bahai Institute of Higher Education.

Through tear-filled testimonials, the audience heard how the Bahais were persecuted against for their beliefs.

”When I was in first grade, my best friend’s father was executed just for being a Bahai,” Pegan Rosman said during one of the testimonials in the film.

The film also revealed how the BHE helped Bahais achieve higher learning. Although starting small, the underground educational system helped several Bahais and grew in size after several years.

However, due to the secrecy of the organization, students and teachers would often be risking their lives when affiliating themselves with the BHE.

Several of the BIHE students and teachers were jailed and even executed for trying to learn because of the laws the Iranian government had imposed on the Bahais.

In order to change the inequality in Iran, the “Education Under Fire” initiative is hoping to get the signatures of 25,000 people so that it can demand a change from the Iranian government.

With petitions lined up at the door, organizers of the event strove to help with the effort to raise 25,000 signatures.

Although the event shined a light on the persecution of Bahais, audience members also were able to see how, through perseverance, they could exercise their basic human right to learn.

“This isn’t a story about victimization,” Rea said. “This is a story about hope and revival.”
GSU alumna aspires to act in upcoming film ‘Catching Fire’

BY AMBER GORDON
The George-Anne staff

The path of a movie star is comparable to a fight to the death, and Georgia Southern University alumna Stephanie Tobey has worked hard to keep the odds in her favor.

Tobey has spent months trying to gain the attention of Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation and several other producers so that she can gain the part of Johanna Mason in the second ‘Hunger Games’ film, ‘Catching Fire.’

Tobey graduated from GSU in 2004 with a degree in communication arts and a minor in theater. She said she has always had a passion for acting, but only recently put her talents to work when she was a student at GSU.

“My dad worked for TV stations and he would sell advertisements. Since I was a kid, he would always send us in to do commercials, so I did a bunch of commercials when I was a kid. I didn’t really make it a priority till I went to Georgia Southern. I did a couple of high school plays but I was more into sports,” Tobey said.

The character of Johanna is filled with tragedy and anger. In the book, she is faced with impossible odds only to succeed, but at a price. “She fought to the death and she won and so she won a lot of money and power for her family, but then her family all got killed, so she was the only one left. She doesn’t have any friends, and I’m sure the reason why she doesn’t is because everyone around her ends up dying, so she pushes everybody away. That’s partly why she’s so angry and fierce on the outside,” Tobey said.

Because of Johanna’s tough side, Tobey had to work hard in order to immerse herself into the role. Getting herself ready for the role included working with a martial arts choreographer, Tobey said.

“I took some time with the character and broke down the information that was given to me from the book and I was able to use that to develop the character and make it real. It’s a lot more difficult to play those gritty characters. It was fun to play a part that was completely opposite from me,” Tobey said.

Like others who read ‘The Hunger Games’ series, Tobey became fixated on the book because of the gripping tale and the deep characters.

“The first book, I could not put it down. I was reading at stoplights. I was late for work because I was sitting in my car reading till the last minute. It was all I was thinking about,” Tobey said. “As soon as I was finished with the first one, I was like, ‘I have to get the next book.’ So, it took me a couple of days to finish reading and I had never been so moved by a book before.”

Through her ability to garner praise from people on YouTube and her own website, StephanieTobey.com, Tobey offered words of encouragement to other aspiring actors and actresses.

“It’s so hard because there isn’t one way to do it. Like a doctor, you’ve got to go to medical school and then you have to figure out what kind of field you want to work in. There really isn’t one way cause people do it totally different ways. Right now, we’re in an amazing time with the web available. You can put your own stuff on YouTube and you can be as creative as you want and people can watch it and they’re really supportive on YouTube,” Tobey said.

“I would suggest writing, and creating, and getting your friends together and just going for it. Instead of just waiting for someone to call, actually do something about it,” Tobey said.
Intramural Scores

Softball
Fast Pitches 15, Foul Poles and Donut Holes 11
Good Heartbreak 4, Title 9 8
We Go 18, Master Batters 19
The Buls 15, Valor 7
STACK 16, Wish They Had D League 15
Cumming Explosions 13, Sons’ of Pitches 5
Thick Sticks 15, Hittin It Hard 20
Young Salads 8, Brew Crew 14
Jail Birds 6, Shred Ex 28
Decent At Best 2, The Great Bambinos 15
Ballbusters 15, Control Your Girl Dawg 5
Fast Pitches 11, Homegrown 15
Forgiven 15, Balls and Dolls 18
Napalm 8, AOPIKE 9
Good Heartbreak 11, Coming in Hot! 8

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Good Heartbreak 11, Coming in Hot! 8

What’s happening in CRI?

Slackline Clinic
I know you’ve seen pictures of slacklining from other college campus’. Even if you’re just curious, head out to the RAC Pavilion on Tuesday, May 1 at 6 p.m. for the Southern Adventures’ Slackline Clinic!

Open High Challenge Course
You don’t want to miss out on this opportunity to try Southern Adventures’ High Challenge Course! They’re having an open session on Thursday, May 5 at 4 p.m. Conquer your fears and learn something new by making it through obstacles such as the Bucket Bridge, Pirates Crossing, and Zip Line.

Last day of Spring Group Fitness schedule
The group fitness schedule is changing for finals week and the upcoming summer. Friday, April 4 is the last day of the Spring Group Fitness schedule. The most up to date schedule can always be found on our website.

Last day for fitness assessments
Looking to get in shape this summer? Get a fitness assessment to know where you should start. Thursday is the last day, so make your appointment now in the Wellness Center!

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT CRI

Tuesday, May 1
Club Sports Council, 6pm
Slackline Clinic, 6pm @ Pavilion

Thursday, May 3
Last Day for Fitness Assessments
Open High Challenge Course, 4pm

Friday, May 4
Last Day of Spring Group Fit Schedule

Monday, May 7
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Laron Scott to compete for spot with Saints

Football

BY DERREK ASBERRY
The George-Anne staff

Former Georgia Southern University kickoff returner/cornerback Laron Scott received a free agent offer from the New Orleans Saints on Saturday, following the conclusion of the NFL Draft.

"It's amazing to have a GSU player join the NFL," said Athletic Media Relations Director Barrett Gilham. "Each team only needs a few guys, so to have a player from Georgia Southern is a pretty big honor for Laron and for us."

Scott owns GSU's total kickoff return yards record with 2,257 career yards. This includes two seasons of over 1,000 kickoff return yards and a 95-yard kickoff return touchdown against the FBS national champions, the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.

Scott was ranked No. 3 in the FCS in return yards, with an average of 30.6 yards a game. He recorded 53 tackles and three interceptions from the cornerback position last season.

"As Dr. Keel said, 'this will be big for our program,'" Gilham said. "Anytime he makes a play, people will Google him and see that he went to Georgia Southern, which puts our name out there."

Head coach Jeff Monken feels that Scott's teammates are excited about the news as well.

"I haven't had a chance to talk to them yet, but I'm absolutely positive that they're thrilled for Laron," Monken said. "As coaches and staff, we are all very proud of him and proud to have him represent Georgia Southern."

There will be about 90 players attending camp that will be competing for a spot on a 53-man roster, said Monken. However, Monken is optimistic that Laron has what it takes to make the cut.

"Hopefully, Laron can find a way to hang in there and make the team," he said.

Last season, the Saints led the NFL in total offense and were ranked 10th in the league in kickoff return yards. Scott's abilities as an Eagle show that he could put the Saints in good field position to continue dominating at the offensive end. Scott could also improve the team's defensive ranking from the cornerback position. The Saints were ranked 24th in defense last season, including 30th against the pass.

"That league is composed of the very best football players in the entire world," Monken said. "Laron is fast, he's got good hands and he's a dynamic kick returner. He has a real knack for finding a seam."

Scott is one of eight Southern Conference players signed as free agents on Saturday night. Elon University's Rodney Austin signed to the Detroit Lions and Wofford College's wide receiver Brenton Berson signed to the Carolina Panthers.

The Furman University Paladins sent three players to the NFL: Cornerback Ryan Steed, offensive tackle Ryan Lee and linebacker Kadarron Anderson signed with the New York Jets, Pittsburgh Steelers and Saints, respectively. Appalachian State's running back Travaris Cadet and quarterback DeAndre Presley signed with the Saints and the San Diego Chargers, respectively.

"Seeing that there were players taken from the Southern Conference shows that there are quality players and great competition in this league," Monken said. "There are good players everywhere. It shows that there are players at every level that can compete."
FBS move is worth it

There's been a lot of talk lately about Georgia Southern University's difficult task of joining the Football Bowl Subdivision in the next few years.

While the hardships of achieving such a goal may seem daunting, the trials and tribulations would ultimately be worth it.

For those who don't know, joining the FBS would mean joining Division I's upper division within the NCAA and doing battle against the nation's toughest football programs. The Eagles currently compete at the FCS, or Football Championship Subdivision, level. It is, by design, the weaker of the two subdivisions.

If this school was able to overcome the difficulties of even reaching the FBS, it would automatically gain recognition across the nation and GSU would be put on its path to greatness.

Over the past 10 years, the administration has been making a huge effort to improve the reputation of this school.

It comes as no surprise that this jump toward national recognition and greatness would be taken. Greatness, however, would come at a cost and recognition wouldn't necessarily be realized right away.

In order to make the transition to FBS, it would require a five-phase plan worth about $36 million, which includes building facilities and upgrading the capacity of Paulson Stadium.

Not only that, but the yearly budget for the team would have to be increased immensely.

Coaches would have to be paid more to go along with higher salaries in the FBS.

The cost of transportation for the team would go up too. It doesn't cost nearly as much to travel to Wofford College, as it would cost to go to the University of Oregon.

Transition to the FBS would allow for more scholarships to be handed out, but the school needs to come up with that money somewhere.

In order to compete in the FBS, it's necessary to recruit players from all over the country and that extra cash would also make an increased budget necessary.

If football games were televised on a national network, Eagle Nation would certainly grow.

For every college game televised each school gets a 30-second commercial that could do wonders for the school in terms of national recognition of the university.

While GSU has been an annual contender to win the FCS national championship frequently within the last five years, the transition to the FBS could mean a struggle to end the year at .500.

Yes, GSU would have its commercials and more people would see the school.

However, the showing may not be so impressive and it could take years for the football program to rise to national prestige.

There seems to be an overwhelming amount of cons to the decision to join the FBS, but at the end of the day, it's worth it.

Business men and women have a popular saying that directly relates to this debate. "You gotta spend money to make money."

After this process is completed, the Eagles will be seen across the nation. People everywhere will have the opportunity to see what the athletic teams can do on the field and what the university stands for with the commercials.

A national championship amongst the toughest schools in the country would more than make up for the investment of millions of dollars and years of hard work.

What's the value of being an Eagle whose school just won the national championship at the highest level of college football? Priceless.

My View

KEVIN GREGAN/SPORTS REPORTER

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GSU sends seniors off with sweep of last home series

Softball

BY ANNA WELLS
The George-Anne staff

After honoring seniors Marie Fogle, Mackenzie Williams, Hanna Ennis and Jorie Walker, the Georgia Southern University Eagles softball team swept Elon University in a series over the weekend.

The team's victory in this Southern Conference series brought the team's record to 19-2 in the SoCon and 35-17 overall.

GAME 1. GSU 6-5. WIN-Purvis (17-9)
LOSS-O'Shea (13-11)

After struggling to sustain offense against Jacksonville University earlier in the week, Ennis started the bottom of the first inning for GSU with a quick single. Fogle then homered to right field to give the Eagles the quick 2-0 lead. In the top of the third, Elon had Ali Ford reach on a throwing error by sophomore pitcher Sarah Purvis. Ford then stole second and was eventually driven in by Carleigh Nester to cut the GSU lead in half, 2-1.

Neither team did much offensively until the sixth inning, when Elon scored on a three-run home run by Tomeka Watson to give the Phoenix the 4-2 lead. In the bottom of the inning, GSU answered with RBI's by Tabby Douberley, Lexi Allen and Ennis to retake the lead for the Eagles and put the score at 5-4.

In the top of the seventh inning, Elon's pitcher Erin O'Shea singled to left field to tie the game at 5-5 as the game headed into extra innings. The Phoenix registered three consecutive outs in the top of the eighth inning and gave the Eagles a chance to win the game. Allen laid down a bunt to open the bottom of the inning and reached second on a throwing error. Williams then doubled to right field to end the game and earn GSU the 6-5 win.

GAME 2. GSU 4-0. WIN-Miles (6-5)
LOSS-Berna (2-3)

Both teams struggled offensively to start the game, with only a combined three hits registered between the two teams until the bottom of the third. In the bottom of the third, Ennis singled and Fogle walked to put two runners on base for the Eagles. Andrea Tarashuk singled down the left field line, scoring two runs for GSU. Walker scored on a wild pitch and shortstop Kourty Thomas scored on a bad throw by Elon to give the Eagles the 4-0 lead and, eventually, the win.

Sophomore pitcher Allie Miles threw a great game, only allowing one hit and no runs as her record improved to 6-5 for the year. Miles added nine strikeouts in the game as she saw her ERA drop to 2.34 so far this season.

“We've got a great group of seniors and it was good to take a few minutes before today's first game to honor them,” head coach Annie Smith said after Saturday’s games. “Our batters had a very good day today and we had quality at bats throughout the lineup. Our pitching staff continues to get great outings and it has taken pressure off of our bats when we weren't producing.”

GAME 3. GSU 5-0. WIN-PURVIS (18-9)
LOSS-O’Shea (13-12)

The game started as a pitcher's battle until the bottom of the third inning when a double from Allen gave GSU the first run of the game. The Eagles were able to add to that advantage in the fourth inning from a sacrifice fly by Kaitlyn Johnson that sent Fogle to home plate.

In the sixth inning, Tarashuk hit a two-run homer, making the Eagles' lead 4-0. This marked Tarashuk's second home run of the season. Douberley followed Tarashuk with a hit to right field that landed between two Elon outfielders. The ball was lost on a wild throw and the error sent Thomas home for the Eagles, giving GSU a 5-0 lead over Elon going into the seventh inning. The Phoenix was unable to do anything offensively in the final inning and the Eagles ended the game with a 5-0 win.

Purvis went the distance for the Eagles, striking out nine batters and only giving up two hits. This raised Purvis's record to 204 strikeouts for the season. Two hits. This raised Purvis's record to 204 strikeouts for the season. Two hits. This raised Purvis's record to 204 strikeouts for the season.

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1 Short trip
5 Daylong march
10 Baseball cards unit
14 Swiss river
15 Stereotypic dog name
16 “Babar, Mongolia”
17 “Sneaky, unobtrusive background sound
18 Pig fish
20 “Footloose” hero
21 China’s Mao
22 Gap rival
23 The Blue Jays, on scoreboards
24 “Highly charged,” as a topic
26 Battle of activity
28 Kids touching game
30 Automaker with a four-ring logo
31 “1001 Nights”
34 Soothing words
36 Bk. before Job
39 Slow-moving tree-hanging animal
41 Fingered, as a prep
42 Amaz-Ball studio
44 “Nouveau riche
46 Feudal slave
48 Chou En-
49 Intractable Beast
50 “Especially favorable agreement
54 Dallas sch.
56 Shopping meccas
57 D-Day craft
58 They’re often cluttered in offices
61 Enter...
62 Mr. who debuted 5/1/1062, or in a way, what the first word of the answers to starred clues can be
64 Hershey’s toffee bar
65 Gay: WWII plane
66 “See ya”
67 Sugar pies

DOWN
1 Taloned bird
2 Pacific island on which much of “Lost” was filmed
3 Hard copies
4 Contentious confrontation
5 Directional ending
6 Dental whitening agent
7 French ordering-carrying craft
8 Former coin of Spain
9 Cockney’s “in this place”
10 Strict observance of formalities
11 Warning
12 Brief acting role
13 Familiar
15 Only planet with a single moon
22 Sensei’s teaching
25 Batsman
26 Scored a hole-in-one on
27 Unit of reality?
29 Silly

HOST BEDS FEAST
ASTI AXON LALAW
I HAVEN'T CALLED CLUE
NOOK PAAHIDE
AID EJECTS NIT
SLOG OXOTIT
COULDBEANYTHING
I STOO CIST SENOR
ITS A MYSTERY TOME
TED ASE ARAB
FEZ DALTON GRE
IVORIES PUPA
FINALLY ONE I KNOW
ETATS EWAN GIVE
SALSA A FEIS SIGAB

32 Con men
33 King of the ring
35 On and on and on and...
36 Average marks
37 Ice cream brand
40 Revealing, like the heart in a Poe title
43 “We’re in!”
45 Mess up
47 More than a misbehaver
50 Hard tennis shot
51 Screwball
52 “Your Song”
singer John
53 Fur tricoon
55 Zubin with a baton
59 Green Hornet’s sidekick
60 State west of Minn.
62 Get-up-and-go
63 Income

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