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GSU COMMUNITY UNITES OVER STUDENT DEATH

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TOP 4 SOFTBALL PLAYERS

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Thursday, March 27, 2014
Georgia Southern University
www.thegeorgeanne.com
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THE GEORGE-ANNE

Sean Combs - Mike WiLL Made It - Scott Storch - The Weeknd - Kanye West - D-Rich - Timbaland - Pharrell - Swizz Beatz - J. Manifest - Ryan Lewis - Dr. Dre - The Neptunes - Nas - L.A. Reid - DJ Shadow - RZA - Jermaine Dupri - Eazy-E - Ol' Dirty Bastard - RedOne - Rick Rubin - Stargate - will.i.am - Alex Da Kid - The Dream - Dr. Luke - Max Martin - Stuart Price - HPG

MAJOR SEVEN

GSU alum produces among the best
on new Rick Ross album

SEE FULL STORY, Page 8

Nicole McIntyre | The George-Anne

Pi Kappa Phi holds candlelight vigil for lost brother

BY TAYLER CRITCHLOW
The George-Anne staff

Crowds gathered around the Pi Kappa Phi house in mourning over the loss of one their brothers Monday night at 9 p.m.

Friends of Alex Keen spoke at the candlelight vigil commemorating Keen's memory to the multitude of gatherers who carried candles in honor of his loss.

Keen, 21, was found dead around 12 p.m. Monday in his Copper Beech Apartments apartment and a gun was also found on the scene, according to the incident report from the Statesboro Police Department.

As previously reported, the cause of death has not yet been confirmed.

"We're saddened to learn about the tragic passing of one of our residents and staff members. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and individual friends. We continue to offer our cooperation and support to the authorities in this investigation," according to a statement from Copper Beech Apartments.

As previously reported, the case has been turned over to the Criminal Investigations Bureau for further review and SPD has not released further information.



Police Beat

Friday, March 22

9:03 a.m.: Officers responded to Willow Bend in reference to a sick person. The sick person received medical assistance.

11:19 a.m.: Officers responded to the Herring Pavilion in reference to an animal complaint. Bulloch County Animal Control was contacted and took possession of the animal.

Saturday, March 23

1:44 p.m.: Officers responded to the RAC fields in reference to an injured person. EMS responded and transported the injured person.

6:30 p.m.: An incident report was taken for a suspicious incident at Freedom's Landing.

7:09 p.m.: An incident report was taken for a criminal trespass in J-Lot. This case was assigned to

Criminal Investigations.

Sunday, March 24

12:20 p.m.: Officers assisted the Statesboro Police Department with an incident at Copper Beach Apartments.

1:40 p.m.: Criminal Investigations arrested Justin Earle Lewis, 19, Statesboro, Ga., and charged him with criminal trespass for an incident that occurred on March 23 in J-Lot.

1:54 p.m.: An incident report was taken for a theft at the ROTC Building. This case was assigned to Criminal Investigations.

5:19 p.m.: Officers responded to University Villas in reference to a drug complaint. One occupant was judicially referred.

Monday, March 25

8:50 a.m.: An incident report was taken for harassment at Lewis Hall. This case was assigned to Criminal Investigations.

10:18 a.m.: A motor vehicle accident report was taken for a motor vehicle accident in Lot 41.

12:10 p.m.: An incident report was taken for found property at the RAC.

3:12 p.m.: An incident report was taken for damage to property in Lot 21.

7:15 p.m.: Officers responded to the Child Development Center in reference to a fire alarm. The fire alarm was accidentally activated by an employee.

7:52 p.m.: A motor vehicle accident report was taken for a motor vehicle accident in the RAC parking lot.

NYU professor to speak at GSU

BY TAYLER CRITCHLOW

The George-Anne staff

A Global Distinguished Professor of Music at New York University will visit Georgia Southern University on April 1 and 2.

Mick Moloney, Ph.D., will give two lectures as part of the 2014 Spring Speaker Series, both lectures are free and open to the public.

The first lecture, "Irish and African Roots of American Music," will be on April 1 at 7 p.m. in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center.

Moloney will reveal how African and Irish musical traditions blend together in the Blue Ridge region of the Appalachian Mountains, according to the release.

At 10:30 a.m. on April 2, Moloney will give his second lecture, "If it weren't for the Irish and the Jews," in the Carter Recital Hall.

This lecture will focus on how

Irish and Jewish musicians and impresarios collaborated in and beyond the tenements of New York City, according to the release.

Celebrated internationally as the preeminent expert on Irish music in America, Moloney holds a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, according to the release.

Moloney is also a folk-life advisor to the Smithsonian Institute.

The Smithsonian Institute was founded in 1846 and is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park and nine research facilities, according to the Smithsonian Institute website.

The lectures are sponsored by the Multicultural Student Center, The Center for Irish Research and Teaching and the Campus Life Enrichment Committee.



Photo courtesy of Marketing & Communications Department

Mike Monoley will come speak at Georgia Southern on April 1 and 2. He is speaking as part of the 2014 Spring Speaker Series.

Statement of Operations

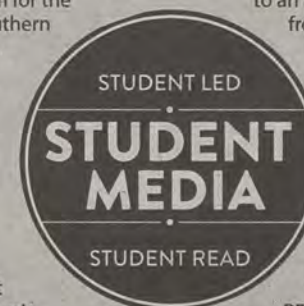
The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, owned and operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County. The newspaper is a designated public forum for the Georgia Southern community. The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor by phone at 912.478.5246 or at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

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

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

The deadline for reserving space and submitting advertising copy is noon, one week prior to the intended publication date. For more information, rate cards, sample publications, contact

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STUDENTS BEWARE: The

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

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

Our View

GSU should seek student input on ban

Over spring break, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved a policy that will prevent students from using tobacco products on any part of USG campuses, including buildings, dorm rooms and even in cars.

The ban will go into effect Oct. 1 of this year; however, the Board of Regents did not lay out a procedure on how this should be enforced on campuses. Instead, the enforcement and possible punishments are left up to each individual university's student code of conduct.

This seems to be setting up each university for failure. Why pass a ban and not specify how it should be carried out, especially with something that is legal for most college students? Tobacco products are very different from other substances, like alcohol, because it is legal for a majority of students and does not impair judgement. Tobacco products may cause a buzz but do not make someone fall and stumble while walking to class.

President Keel expressed that he would not want to see a group of police officers becoming tobacco cops and just have students be responsible for each other. Thinking that out, it seems unlikely that many students will step up and ask those that are not following this ban to change their ways.

Another aspect to consider is the fact that many tobacco products are addictive and users must use them frequently to feed the craving. In a previous Student Government Association meeting, it was said that there would be cessation programs for students as well as faculty that are geared toward helping users stop using tobacco products.

Some students appreciate the ban, while others are upset that it was passed, but regardless of the differing opinions the university should involve them in the process of enforcing the ban. If students have to abide by it, then they should have a say in it.



Letter to the Editor

Eagle Nation should come together

It is always sad to see another Eagle fly away, whether you know them or not, but Alex Keen's passing this week has taught me a lot about this school and our students.

Let me start by saying that I never met him. The name had come up before, but I didn't know him. However, after hearing so much about the impact he had on so many of my friends' lives and how he blessed them, I can say he has also blessed me. I'm proud to attend a school with students like that.

Tragedy struck, and we can't change that. However, the encouragement I have witnessed across campus the past couple of days has overwhelmed me. Watching students from all walks of life, many of them strangers, joining with each other to provide a support system for friends and classmates has been amazing. It makes me wonder if I'm having the impact I want to have here at Georgia Southern.

I feel like this is something we

should all stop and wonder about every now and then. Are we really living it up the way we should be for these short few years in college? So many students focus too heavily on things that aren't important in the long run. Your college experience isn't determined by the size of your stadium. It shouldn't be determined by arguments over the name of a bar in town. Your college experience is determined by times like this when you can pull together as a student body. It is a connection, a bond that you feel with your classmates. It is being able to join hands with anyone on campus and love them as a brother or sister.

Recently, the Greek community has been a great example of this and has been so encouraging to watch. Seeing these students look past their own letters and lift up students they may not know much about. I'm not sure how many people noticed, but Monday night when I drove past Greek Row,

there was hardly standing room due to the number of students who just wanted to be there for people. I know many people have stereotypes about Greek Life (I used to be the same way), but the family atmosphere they've shown is unmatched. These students have gotten something right, and it is something I think we can all learn from.

I guess what I'm trying to say is value your time here for what it is. Don't let little disagreements ruin your experiences. Treat each other this way every day. This is the Georgia Southern I fell in love with and brag about. This is the Eagle Nation I love. I hate that it had to follow such sorrow, but let's keep it up.

I'm continuing to pray for the family, friends and brothers of my fellow Eagle, and I urge you to do the same.

Caleb Rogers
Junior, Public Relations

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, typed, and sent via e-mail in Microsoft Word format to 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 Board, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.

Do not let professionalism take a backseat to partying

I understand that college is supposed to be the best four – or five – years of your life, and all you want to do is live it up.

However, you have to remember that the goal at the end of college is to get a job and start a career.

Spring break is supposed to be just that: a break from reality.

But when pictures of you passed out drunk on the beach with a full neck of beads (which we all know how you got those beads) surfaces on GSUProblems, OnlyAtSouthern or any of the other crazy GSU social media accounts that have surfaced, it turns into more than that. You are now tasked with the challenge of figuring out how to get this picture taken down and make sure it doesn't ruin your life.

Yes, these accounts are not personally associated with you, however when all of your friends tag you to ask if it is you, it soon gets your name attached to it.

When looking for a job, later in life, you better believe that your future employer is going to Google you and search for you on Twitter, Facebook and any other social media account. The picture will most likely come up.

It is important to always remember that

THE STATESBORO STANDARD



JACKIE GUTKNECHT

you are representing something more than just yourself. You are representing your future job and your school.

Georgia Southern does not get its party reputation from students who stay at home and study all of the time, because those aren't the students that are seen. The students that are seen are the ones who are drunkenly dancing on the stage in the Rudy's Rave video.

If your future employer doesn't find that drunken picture of you, congratulations, but to think that it won't ever haunt you is hard to do.

It is important to always be the person you would want to hire, which means professional, at all times.

Gutknecht is a senior journalism major from Conyers. She is currently the investigative reporter for the news section.

Media promotes problem

Since early February, Venezuela has been plagued by violence stemming from political protests. Mainstream media's coverage of the situation has been sparse to say the least. When Venezuela's unrest has appeared, there's a simple narrative attached to the conflict. One that's fairly consistent across the board: clash between peaceful protestors and the oppressive President Nicolás Maduro. For example, in February CBS News aired a short discussion during which an opposition leader was described as "Harvard-educated intellectual versus Maduro, former-bus-driver-labor-leader, who's keeping this country in crisis."

Boiling a multi-faceted conflict down to nothing more than a "sophisticated political opposition" suppressed by a blue-collar government? Not only is that a ridiculously elitist depiction, but it completely distorts the reality of the situation by assigning "good guy/bad guy" roles. By selectively withholding crucial facts and details, media outlets effectively decide which issues are deserving of the public's attention and how they should feel about them. In actuality, there isn't one unified organization of peaceful protestors, but divided factions of the nonviolent and radical. It's been small handfuls of individuals who have taken violent actions that warranted a response from authorities.

This uniform bias in mainstream U.S. media aligns all too well with the

GOING IT MALONE



AMANDA MALONE

U.S. government's stance. The Obama administration has been lending subtle support to the political opposition, characterizing the conflicts as human rights violations. In press releases, Secretary of State John Kerry has said, "We are particularly alarmed by reports that the Venezuelan government has arrested or detained scores of anti-government protesters," and accused President Maduro of bringing a "terror campaign against his own people." There's even been calls for a third-party mediator to help facilitate a dialogue.

Once again under the guise of "preserving democracy," the U.S. has decided to intervene in foreign affairs and are now promoting the destabilization of Venezuela's regime. And the fourth estate, media, either distributes the propaganda through skewed presentation or ignores the situation entirely.

Malone is a junior English major and writing minor from New York.

Do not commit to a pet if you cannot take care of it

Several months ago I jumped on the Free and For Sale Facebook group bandwagon and found myself pleasantly surprised at the little online community. Not only could I buy and sell gently used furniture and clothing from people in my local community, but I was able to see who I was connecting with within the group, which made it seem like an easy and safe alternative to websites like Craigslist.

However over the last few months I have notice a troubling trend on these local group pages: people who try to get rid of their pets just like that prom dress taking up space in their closet.

Each post about the poor dog or cat that is in need of a new owner is accompanied by a story about how the current owner is

moving to a new apartment complex that does not allow pets or how the pet had too much energy for the family.

While the owner's efforts to find the pet a new loving home instead of sending it to the humane society is commendable, it is appalling to see how many pet owners in our local community irresponsibly rush into their decision to get a pet and are unable to fully commit to give these animals the families they deserve.

The average cat lives 12 to 14 years, and the average dog lives to be about 11. Owning an animal is a serious commitment of your time, money and energy and should not be taken lightly. Pets are wonderful companions, and owning and taking care of one can be a truly

BEHIND THE SCENES



PEYTON CALLANAN

rewarding experience, but household pets are completely dependent on their owners, which is a big responsibility.

Pets aren't meant to be sold or given away to strangers over the Internet like a unwanted piece of furniture because they no longer fit into your life; they are meant to be a part of your family. Responsible pet owners have to be willing to make

sacrifices for their animals. If you adopt or purchase an animal now make sure to take them with you to wherever you are in the future. If that animal is going to be sharing a household with other people or other animals try introducing them to each other before you commit to having them. Also, do some research on the breed characteristics of your pet to make sure that they will fit your lifestyle properly.

Owning a pet isn't for everyone, but if you want to take that step make sure you can be the person your pet thinks you are and give them the forever home they truly deserve.

Callanan is a senior communication arts major from Chuluota, Fla. She is the current Opinions Editor.

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Photo courtesy of The Clubhouse in Statesboro

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new eco-friendly racetrack that will be open in early summer at The Clubhouse in Statesboro was yesterday. The new racetrack is sponsored by Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and will be called the Coca-Cola 125 Raceway.

Go-cart track breaks ground at The Clubhouse Racetrack to open in early summer

BY TAYLER CRITCHLOW

The George-Anne staff

The Clubhouse in Statesboro has broken ground on a new eco-friendly go-cart track that is expected to open in early summer.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held yesterday and the construction by Lavender and Associates, Inc. is already underway.

Lavender and Associates, Inc. began in 1989 and was the company that spearheaded the construction of Georgia Southern's eagle mascot Freedom's new home at the Wildlife Center, according to the Lavender and Associates, Inc., website.

The go-cart track, Coca-Cola 125 Raceway, is sponsored by Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and is the only one in southeast Georgia, according to the release.

"Coca-Cola is proud to sponsor the Coca-Cola 125 Raceway. The Clubhouse has become the go-to spot in our area for entertainment seekers of all ages, and does such a wonderful job of promoting the smiles and fun spirit Coca-Cola is all about," Dennis Key, sales center manager of Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc., said in the release.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Co. began in 1902 in Greensboro, NC with J.B. Harrison selling Coca-Cola in bottles, according to the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. website.

The racetrack will be a 1.25-mile adventure and will feature 28 of the industry's most advanced fully electric, environmentally

friendly go-carts, according to the release.

An on-board audio system with accelerator-sensitive stock car engine sounds, driver controlled turbo boosts and wirelessly controlled messages that instruct drivers on track rules and driving technique will be featured on each car along with a pit sound system that hypes the race for the spectators, according to the release.

"The Coca-Cola 125 Raceway experience will provide a thrill unlike anything in our area. We look forward to seeing how much fun our returning guests have and to seeing lots of new faces," Darin Van Tassell, owner of The Clubhouse, said in the release.

The new track will create 20 new job positions at The Clubhouse and is expected to draw customers from surrounding counties.

"We are always looking for new ways to create the most entertaining experience possible for our guests, and to attract new visitors from miles around to Statesboro. Our goal is to always have folks come here for a great time and leave with more fun memories than they could have imagined," Van Tassell said in the release.

According to the The Clubhouse in Statesboro's website, The Clubhouse also offers a golf range, batting cages, a 24 lane bowling alley, an arcade, laser tag, an indoor playground and Spikes Spots Grill that offers a full menu and alcoholic beverages, gluten free options and a desert bar.

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 SOUTHERN MARSH

SOUTHERN TIDE

From Omar Walker to Major Seven GSU student journeys to make it big in the music industry

BY CHARLES RUDISON

The George-Anne staff

A recent graduate of Georgia Southern University went from being Omar Walker, the student who makes beats for his high school sweetheart, to Major Seven, the producer who drops beats for high-profile artists like JAY Z and Rick Ross.

Walker, who just last year roamed the campus of GSU, is a 2013 alumni making appearances with famous artist like Musiq Soulchild, Yo Gotti and Dondria.

Walker received his first big break shortly after R&B legend Keith Sweat became his manager.

"I got my first real start when a man named Fitzgerald Scott took me and several other producers to the legendary R&B singer Keith Sweat. Keith liked my work and he has been my manager since then. Keith has grown into a role model for me," Walker said.

Due to his partnership with Keith Sweat and his talent for producing, Walker received a placement on T-Pain's mixtape "Stoic" for the song 'Let you go.' The placement was Omar's first real big step in his music career.

Walker was also featured alongside an elite group of producers in Rick Ross' album, proving his worth.

"I feel extremely blessed and accomplished knowing that producers from Kanye West to P. Diddy produced on the album and I got the lead single, it goes to

show that all my hard work and dedication wasn't for nothing," Walker said.

Walker, naturally having a creative prowess, spent most of his time on a tightrope juggling the art of focusing on music while remaining a full time student.

"I have always had a mind for creativity, before music it was art. It's just a talent I've been able to capitalize on," Walker said. "There were times in college where I would even spend most of my refund check on better equipment, anything to make it. I only went to like two parties my entire college career. All my time went to my music."

Walker does not plan on stopping anytime soon. He aspires to use his work on Ross's album to become a big name in the music industry by tackling big projects with artists like Lil Wayne, Flo-Rida and Currency.

"I also am scheduling a sit-down session with Ross to see if we will be able to work together again. Last week I traveled to Miami to meet with other artists. If I'm not working on producing I'm doing things to grow in producing and grow in my career," Walker said.

Walker has the mind of a renaissance man because he refuses to be content with just being successful as a music producer.

Walker said, "I'm not a producer, I am a creator. I am more than just a music producer. I have app ideas, movie ideas, and other ideas dealing with business. I have an abundance of things I want to do with my life, producing is just a fraction."



Courtesy of Omar Walker



Omar Walker began producing beats in his free time while he was a student at Stephenson High School in Dekalb. Now, as a GSU alumnus, Walker produces beats for major musicians such as T-Pain and Rick Ross.



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File Photo

NAACP crowned Solomon Crawford and Morgan Brown as their Mr. and Miss NAACP at their first scholarship pageant last year.

NAACP to host co-ed pageant

BY ALIA LEWIS

The George-Anne contributor

The Georgia Southern University chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is hosting their second annual Mr. and Miss NAACP pageant this Sunday giving students a chance to strut their stuff.

Unlike other pageants, the Mr. and Miss NAACP pageant will be co-ed, giving both male and female students the opportunity to represent the organization to the fullest.

"[The organization] is about equality" said Kashia Knight, GSU NAACP chapter president.

"The chapter strives to represent anyone who feels they're unheard or mistreated," Knight said, "everyone deserves to be treated fairly despite color, sexual orientation, religion, everything."

Knight stresses that the organization is not only about color.

"We stress diversity as much as possible; our founders were black and white," Knight said.

Knight invites everyone to attend the pageant. She said it will be entertaining and it gives students the opportunity to see something different. "We are the first college chapter [of the NAACP] to have a co-ed pageant."

The theme of this year's pageant is masquerade ball, said Brandon Thompson, pageant co-coordinator and co-chair of economic empowerment.

The contestants will be judged on business attire, ballroom attire, casual attire and talent. Thompson said what differentiates this pageant from a fashion show is that the contestants show a lot of diversity.

"They show what they can do, what they can bring to the pageant," Thompson said.

Thompson believes that a co-ed pageant is important because no one should be singled out.

"We should all support each other no matter what it is," Thompson said, "the contestants worked very hard to put on a good show for the audience and with the school's support it will be a success."

Students looking to get involved with the GSU chapter of the NAACP can attend meetings every other Monday, beginning April 7 at 6:30 p.m., in room 1005 of the IT Building.

The second annual Mr. and Miss NAACP pageant will be held March 30 at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door.

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GATA's

- 5-8 happy hour



Gnat's Landing

- 5-8 happy hour



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40 East Grill

- Happy Hour 5-7



Locos

- Cotty James Happy hour 5-7 p.m.
- ½ off boneless wings
- ½ off draft beer

FRIDAY

Dingus Magee's

- 2 for 1 well drinks
- 2 for 1 bombs



40 East Grill

- Happy Hour 5-7



Gnat's Landing

- 5-7 happy hour
- \$10 liquor pitchers
- Trivia night



El Jalepeno

- Happy hour 3-6 p.m.
- \$2.99 Bahama Mama
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South City Tavern

- \$3 champagne cocktails all day, Happy hour is at 4 p.m.-10 p.m.
- Free pool
- \$2 wells, and \$1 off everything else



Locos

- William Trostclair
- Happy hour 5-7 p.m.
- ½ off boneless wings
- ½ off draft beer

SATURDAY

Dingus Magee's

- 2 for 1 well drinks
- 2 for 1 bombs



El Sombrio

- Happy hour
- \$2.25 martini



GATA's

- 5-8 happy hour



40 East Grill

- Happy Hour



South City Tavern

- \$3 champagne cocktails all day, Happy hour is at 4 p.m.-10 p.m.
- Free pool
- \$2 wells, and \$1 off everything else



Locos

- Frank and



El Jalepeno

- Happy hour

ur



Live Music



Special Events

SATURDAY

Dingus Magee's
for 1 well drinks
for 1 bombs

Sombrero
happy hour 5-8
.25 margaritas

GATA's
8 happy hour

East Grill
happy Hour 5-7

South City
Tavern
3 champagne
cocktails all day
happy hour is at 4
p.m.-10 p.m.
free pool
2 wells, and \$1
everything else

Locos
ank and Benjy

El Jalepeno
happy hour 3-6

SUNDAY

El Jalepeno
-All day happy hour

GATA's
All day happy hour

MONDAY

Dingus Magee's
-\$10 buckets

El Jalepeno
-All day happy hour

TUESDAY

South City
Tavern
-\$3 champagne
cocktails all day
-Happy hour is at 4
p.m.-10 p.m.
-Free pool
-\$2 wells, and \$1
off everything else

Locos
-Happy hour 5-7
p.m.
-½ off boneless
wings
-½ off draft beer

El Jalepeno
-Happy hour 3-6
p.m. and 9 to close
-\$2.99 House wells

WEDNESDAY

Gnat's Landing
-Wings, Beer, and
Karaoke tonight!
-.50 cent wings
-\$3.50 DBL wells
-\$6 Pitchers
-\$3 Fireball &
Rumple

South City
Tavern
-\$3 champagne
cocktails all day,
-Happy hour is at 4
p.m.-10 p.m.
-Free pool
-\$2 wells, and \$1
off everything else

El Jalepeno
-Happy hour 3-6
p.m. and 9 to close
-\$2.99 House wells



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Wednesday, April 2
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Russell Union Rotunda

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STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTER
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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File Photo

The fourth annual Miss Ugly Pageant is hosted by the Sigma Alpha Iota fraternity where the guys dress like girls for a charitable cause.

Miss Ugly Pageant to raise money for Relay for Life

BY JENNIFER ARTHURS

George Anne Contributor

Georgia Southern University guys will get ugly at the fourth annual Miss Ugly Pageant on March 28 at 7 p.m. The pageant is in the Foy Recital Hall and sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota fraternity.

"It's a chance for us to raise money for Relay for Life and our philanthropies in a really fun way," Grey Prescott, chairman of the pageant, said. "We have 8 guys this year who are going to dress up like women and perform talents, answer questions from the judges, and do a group dance at the end. It's just a fun way to raise money."

Participants will go through a pageant agenda ranging from performing their own different talents to answering questions that the judges will create for them.

The Miss Ugly Pageant has been held for the last four years to help raise money for different causes and the S.A.I. philanthropies.

The participating members are all from the GSU marching band. Some of the participants are even members of Phi Mu Alpha and Kappa Kappa Si, parts of the music Greek organization.

Communications arts major Dylan Kennedy has participated in this pageant the previous year for fun with a group of his friends. He is going again this year.

"It was such a good experience for us to raise money. This year it's for Relay for Life," Kennedy said. "We raised so much money; I thought why not do it again."

Another aspect Kennedy likes about the pageant allows people to step out of their comfort zone, he said. The pageant also gives a connection to the community with the music fraternities.

"It kind of lets other people who come, not just in the music department, outside of it also. They come and see what the music fraternities do and want to raise money," Kennedy said.

The winner will be crowned Miss Ugly, and receive a certificate, a crown, and roses for winning the pageant, Prescott said.

Computer science major Mauricio Sonny is excited to participate in the pageant. He has big plans if he wins the title of Miss Ugly.

"If I win Miss Ugly, I'm going to Disneyland," Sonny said.

Advertisement

WEEKLY BUZZ

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

Mar. 27 - Apr. 2

THURSDAY 3.27.2014

UPB

A Night at the Clubhouse

10:00 PM to 1:00 AM, The Clubhouse

Come out to The Clubhouse this Thursday March 27th for a night of free bowling, games, and laser tag! From 10 PM until 1 AM every Georgia Southern student with a valid Eagle ID will get 1 round of mini-golf, 1 game of bowling with shoes, and 1 game of laser tag, all for free!

FRIDAY 3.28.2014

UPB

Late Night Movie: "Frozen"

Friday, March 28th, 6 PM and 8 PM, Russell Union Theater

On Friday March 28th, UPB invites all students out for a free showing of the hit movie Frozen. The movie will be shown on Friday, March 28th at 6 PM and 8 PM in the Russell Union Theater.

SATURDAY 3.29.2014

SUNDAY 3.30.2014

MONDAY

3.31.2014

CRI

Swim Lesson/Clinic Session IV begins

Don't forget to sign up for the swim lessons/clinics! The fee is only \$10 for students for a 3-week session. The sessions are designed to refine your stroke (clinic) or provide you with basic swim needs (lessons). For more information visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/aquatics/aquatic-programs/swim-lessons/>

TUESDAY

4.1.2014

Office of Student Leadership & Civic Engagement Events

SOLD Workshop: "Finding a Mentor"

Presented by: Chris Pugh

5:30- 6:30 pm, Russell Union Theater

Sponsored by: The Office of Student Activities and the Office of Student Leadership & Civic Engagement

UNplugged

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Russell Union Commons

The University Programming Board invites you to our weekly UNplugged Series! Looking for something fun to do on campus? Want to watch some live performances? Maybe even want to try out that new song of yours? Georgia Southern UNplugged is a coffeehouse series/open mic night sponsored by the University Programming Board held every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the Russell Union Commons. Come and see the talented students of the Georgia Southern community showcase their skills. BRING YOUR EAGLE ID! Performing? Sign up early.

Office of Dean of Students/Student Conduct Events

University Conduct Board Applications

Starting April 1, 2014, applications are open for next year's University Conduct Board. Applications will be available through <http://tinyurl.com/UCBApplication> Students with questions should contact (912) 478-0059. Applications will close on April 15, 2014.

CRI Events

Campus Farmer's Market

10am-1pm

Mainstreet Statesboro Farmer's Market will be on campus to provide fresh produce, baked goods, honey, meat, and dairy products. For more information visit <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/wellness/wellness-programs/campus-farmers-market/>

Registration Closes: 4-on-4 Flag Football

This is the last day to get your team together and register to play 4-on-4 Flag Football. Make sure to register by 8 p.m.!

WEDNESDAY

4.2.2014

Blood Drive

10 am-4 pm, RAC

Adventure Movie Series

8pm

FRIDAY

4.11.2014

Georgia Southern University's 4th Annual Career in Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Day (CSAEMD)

11:30am - 5:00p, Georgia Southern University- Russell Union

Have you ever thought about a career in Intramural Sports, planning concerts with Student Activities or helping students orient themselves to campus life through SOAR? Then a career in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management could be for you! Plan to attend Georgia Southern's 4th Annual Career in Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Day! The goal of the workshop is to help students learn more about Student Affairs and Enrollment Management as a profession and how to move forward in this career path. Please visit the CSAEMD website at www.georgiasouthern.edu/SAcareerday for more information and to register on-line. Career in Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Day is sponsored by Georgia Southern University's Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

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Enrollment
Management

Brought to you by Georgia Southern University VALUES. Georgia Southern V.A.L.U.E.S. is the culture shared by our students, faculty, and staff. We endeavor to share our V.A.L.U.E.S. inside and outside of the classroom with faculty, staff, students, alumni and all other community members. In order to produce productive citizens with an informed set of ethics and community standards as well as create an environment of respect and civility, we pledge to live by our V.A.L.U.E.S.

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Courtesy of Mauracullen.com

Maura Cullen has over 30 years of experience at over 300 universities in speaking on the topic of diversity to students in a simplified, comedic manner.

GSU faculty to learn diversity from speaker Maura Cullen

BY ERINN WILLIAMS

The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University faculty and staff will have an opportunity to learn about how to interact with diverse populations this morning after students received this unique chance last night.

Maura Cullen, nationally acclaimed diversity trainer, will present "Dumb Things Well-Intended People Say" from 9-11 a.m. in the Williams Center Multipurpose Room.

With a doctorate in social justice and diversity education and over 25 years of experience, Cullen has worked with over 500 organizations and with audiences of up to 8,000 people, training them in how to deal with diversity and leadership.

"She has a way of delivering information that really gets people to see the stuff that they can do that might be offensive. A bunch of people have come together to bring her to campus. She is a wonderful speaker and I believe students and faculty will enjoy her," Tierza Watts, director of residence education, said. Cullen founded the Diversity Student Summit, which is a student diversity conference that helps students and staff recreate a more inclusive campus environment. She is also a founding faculty member of the Social Justice Training Institute and authored "35 Dumb Things Well-Intended People Say."

"She speaks mostly on micro-aggressions which are basically things that people say subtly that are racist, sexist or homophobic," Watts said.

Maura Cullen's presentation will focus on two

topics. The first is what to do if someone says something to you that is offensive and the second is what to do if you accidentally say something that is offensive. Faculty and students will hear about ten common statements that well-intended people say that may be considered offensive. She will speak on ten core concepts that will help in implementing diversity strategies and create understanding.

"She is one of the most well-respected in her field. I have interacted with her numerous times and every time she has blown me away. She adds a common ground in dealing with issues of multiculturalism and pluralism and she delivers information in a way that causes students to challenge their own opinions," Chris MacDonald, executive director of University Housing, said.

Maura Cullen is known for using humor to show a different perspective. She will have a book signing at the event and "35 Dumb Things Well-Intended People Say" will be available for \$15. She spoke to students last night in the Russell Union Ballroom at 6 and 8 p.m.

The event is sponsored by University Housing, Multicultural Student Center, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, University Wellness Program, Student Activities, Dean of Students, Fraternity and Sorority Relations, First-Year Experience and the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement.

Faculty and staff are asked to register in advance because of the limited amount of seating.

The event is free to faculty and staff and yesterday's events were free for students.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
2014 Elections
CANDIDATES
Debate
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
6:30 PM
RUSSELL UNION THEATER

What school are you representing?

BY HAYDEN BOUDREAUX

The George-Anne staff

Look up. How many different college logos and names can you find littered on backpacks, shirts and hats? Now, how many of those names are Georgia Southern University?

Can you imagine visiting the University of Georgia and finding more Eagles than Bulldogs? It doesn't have to be other universities in Georgia. For most it is the team they followed through their brackets in high school, or watched win the Rose Bowl.

With over 26,000 students there is a good chance many of us did not always plan to become Eagles and some probably transferred from bigger universities. We may



Hayden Boudreaux

have showed up on Saturdays in Athens dressed from head to toe in red and black. However, we are now together at GSU, it is time to earn our respect and there is plenty of respect to be earned.

Our school is home to six national championships in football and countless conference championships scattered among our volleyball, baseball and softball teams. We have dominated the football championship and have earned our respect among our competitors.

In two years, the football team will travel to Athens for a game against UGA. Who will you be rooting for? How can we expect to be taken seriously when we get off the fan buses with half of the students wearing GSU shirts but a UGA bag? This problem needs to

be addressed from within our student body.

There are many traditions and all of us are undoubtedly proud to be Eagles. We all chant and Hail Southern but that cannot be enough. We need to draw a line in the sand and say we are more proud of representing GSU than UGA, especially since they are our competition.

We are moving into the Football Bowl Subdivision and if we ever hope to become a nationally renowned program we have to start on the interior. It's time to put away the Bulldogs, Yellow Jackets and Gators apparel. Wouldn't it be nice if our friends at the Georgia Institute of Technology and University of Florida were caught wearing some Eagle gear?

Hayden Boudreaux is a sophomore business management major from St. Marys. Hayden is currently the softball reporter.



Sarah Holmes | The George-Anne contributor

A GSU student is wearing a Florida Gators hoodie on campus. Boudreaux believes GSU will not be as successful as it can be until the entire student body commits 100 percent to supporting the Eagles.

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Tuesday, March 25, 2014
at the Russel Union 2080
10 A.M. until Noon.

Join us for the HR Summer Job Fair
April 1, 2014
at the Russel Union Ballroom
9 A.M. until Noon

Interviews will be held during the job fair and from 1 PM until 5PM

CLASSIFIEDS

16 Thursday March 27, 2014

The George-Anne

Miscellaneous

"iCompute Service Repair is a small customer friendly team of college students majoring in information technology and other related fields, specializing in repairs in a wide variety of devices including iPhone's, iPad's, Galaxy's, Notes, and laptops slogan "Premiere Smartphone and Laptop Repair Service in Statesboro, GA" Contact us at 404-319-0840 or Visit our www.icomputeservice.com"

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For Sale

I have a late 08-09 15" Macbook pro. 250GB w/ 4GB Ram upgrade plus new battery and case 15 inch. 650 obo. 770-885-5786

Housing

117 #A - Southbend Dr. 3BR/2Bt Townhouse (by Fair Grounds) Fall14-Spring15 Master BR-13.5ftx12.5ft - BT 7ftx5.5ft Furnished home, washer & dryer, living room, kitchen, patio; yard (115+ ft). Quiet atmosphere. Internet + utilities included in \$455 OBO. Musician and I.T roommates. Contact David : 678-372-1921 or dp01839@georgiasouthern.edu

Housing

CBeech Townhomes looking for Sublease. CHEAP RENT + utilities= \$465 average. Turbo Internet, Huge Bedrooms and Bathrooms, 2 very friendly Senior roommates. Please Contact Tommy Dean @ 706-993-0294 if interested!

2,3,4,5,6,7 Bedroom houses for rent. Available August 1st. Immediate repairs made. Contact Dr. Hood at 912-682-7468.

Male sublease wanted at Hawthorne ASAP! 2 bed/2 bath, washer/dryer unit, Big bedroom, 1 roommate, a mile from campus, single-level, poolside! I'm looking to move out before next semester. \$370/month+utilities if interested text/call 770-480-0181

Apartment available for sublease in 111 South. 4bd/4bth. Largest room in apartment. Huge bathroom and walk in closet. View of entire neighborhood, pool and fire pits. Access to 24hr clubhouse, lazy river and many other amenities. All for only \$444/month! Available for IMMEDIATE MOVE IN. Message me or comment if interested. Can move into brand new apartment for no extra cost. kw02345@georgiasouthern.edu

1700 sqft, 4 bedroom/4 bathroom house for rent. Burkhalter Plantation (near campus). Walk-in closets, Wash/Dryer, garage, deck, front porch, large yard maintained by owners. Open kitchen/living, vaulted ceilings. \$375/mo/bedroom, utilities separate. \$375 refundable deposit. Furnished or unfurnished. Pets allowed, \$200 deposit. Call/text 706-825-9850 for information. 12-month lease/individual, available August 2014.

FOR STUDENTS TAKING SUMMER CLASSES: Looking for male to take over my lease for the months of June and July. 4 Bedroom apartment in Campus Crossings \$450 per month utilities included. If interested, please email me at no00351@georgiasouthern.edu

Miscellaneous

"Are you interested in playing club soccer? We are looking for committed players that have experience. Tryouts for this semester will be held the 3rd week of classes. Come find us at the Club Sports Fair or email us to extend your interest and get more information! GSUwomensclubsoccer@gmail.com"

Georgia Southern University will be hosting it's 2nd Annual campus Relay For Life on Friday, April 11th at 6p.m. All students, faculty, staff and associates of the University are encouraged to participate and form teams for this event! We are also in search of cancer survivors to walk our Survivor's Lap to kick off Relay. Teams can register online by searching Georgia Southern on the Relay For Life website. For more information please contact Megan White at mw05151@georgiasouthern.edu.

"Need help moving? College guys are ready to do the heavy lifting for you. Book a move with us at www.getbellhops.com"

El Jalapeno Mexican Restaurant is looking for Bartenders, food servers, and hostess. Apply in person Wednesday-Friday from 2-5pm. 711 South Main Street Statesboro, GA

Housing

"Legacy Apartments, furnished room/bath, walk-in closet. Female only. Walk to class. Available NOW - 7/30/14. Reduced Price \$355 plus utilities. C 770-873-5102 hm01382@georgiasouthern.edu"

One11South newest apartment complex at Georgia Southern. Two rooms available for sublease. Rent is \$354 with utilities included. If you have any question call 678-571-5795

Housing

Looking for someone to sublease my apartment in the Garden District for 2 months this summer. Rent is \$150 + Utilities. 3 bed/3bath, washer and dryer, and the largest room in the apartment. I am very flexible with payment, and am willing to work with you. For any questions contact Gil at 404-452-7457 or email at jg03784@georgiasouthern.edu.

First month FREE. Furnished room/bath, walk-in closet, The Woodlands Apartments. Female only. Walk to class. Available 12/14/13 - 7/30/14. \$430 plus utilities. C 770-873-5102 hm01382@georgiasouthern.edu

One bedroom/one bathroom (and private downstairs living room) in a 3 bed/3.5 bath townhome in Copper Beech. Rent is \$455/month + utilities, includes extended cable and high-speed internet. Washer and dryer in unit. Access to new gym, pools, and hot tub. Call or text Alex at (912) 678-9576.

I am looking for someone to take-over my lease at The Grove. It is a 3 bed 3 bath apartment! It is available for move-in ASAP! I will pay all of your move-in fees which is \$350!! It is the biggest room and bathroom in the apartment! Email me at ee00378@georgiasouthern.edu

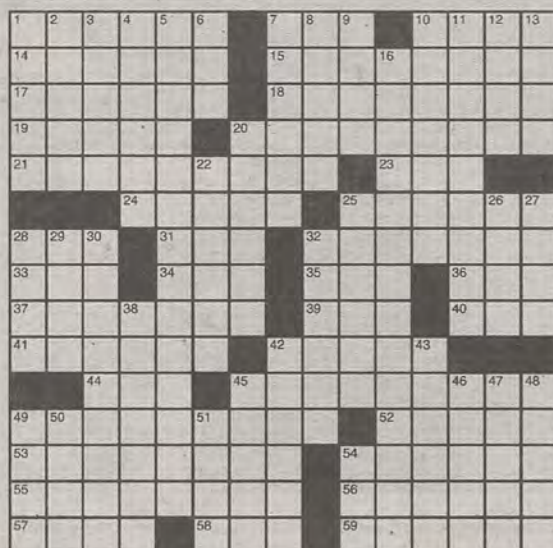
IN SEARCH OF ONE FEMALE ROOMMATE. 3 bedroom 3 bathroom duplex. About \$420 / month INCLUDING utilities. \$325 before utilities are added. Two easy going female roommates. Pets welcome. Large closet. Private bath. Off Cypress Lake Rd. Available beginning Summer or Fall 2014. Contact Ivey Samples at Ls02862@georgiasouthern.edu or 770-853-6403.

Looking for someone to sublease room in Aspen Heights for this semester as well as the summer semester in a 4 bedroom house. Can be girl or boy. Rent is \$554 a month, which includes furniture as well as utilities. Willing to negotiate and work out a deal on the rent. If interested please contact me at (706) 366-2440 or email me at jc09051@georgiasouthern.edu

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Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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Last Edition's Puzzle Solved

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THAT DIDN'T
WORK SO WELL.

(I SAID IT WOULDN'T
BE EASY.



WE ALL FEEL A
SENSATION LIKE WE'RE
MOVING FORWARD IN TIME,
BUT OUR ONLY DIRECT
EXPERIENCE OF TIME
IS THAT WE REMEMBER
THE PAST AND NOT
THE FUTURE.



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WHAT IF OUR CONSCIOUSNESSES WERE INSTEAD RANDOMLY SKIPPING AROUND IN TIME FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT?



WE'D NEVER KNOW IT BECAUSE AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT WE'D ONLY BE AWARE OF THE PAST



THAT'S A NICE THOUGHT
AN INSTANT AGO I COULD
HAVE BEEN OR COMING
EXPERIENCING OUT OF YOUR
MY FIRST MOM'S
KISS HEY



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L A N T E R N W A L K

GRADUATION SHOUTOUTS



Email questions to Ginny Byrd at ads1@georgiasouthern.edu

Golf dedicates Schenkel trophy to fallen player

BY EMILY ARNOLD

The George-Anne staff

In the summer of 2011 on a sunny Sunday morning, now-senior golfers Will Evans, Drew Guffey and Hayden Anderson each received a heartbreaking phone call from their coach, Larry Mays.

Thomas Keith Sharkey was an enthusiastic, fun-loving guy from Scotland who came to Georgia Southern University in 2010 as a talented golfer. A month before a new school year was to begin, Sharkey was killed tragically in a house fire at his home in Helensburgh, Scotland along with his younger sister and father. His mother, Angela Sharkey, was the only one of his family to survive.

"Thomas was one of the best friends you could ever have," Evans said. "He was always upbeat and he liked to have fun. He was just a great guy and one of my best friends on the team. He was a guy that you could get really close to."

Throughout the years, Sharkey has been remembered on this team in various ways. The Scottish flag flies on a pole at the Bennett-

Ramsey Center practice facilities with a memorial stone underneath, his name sits above his empty locker inside the facilities and there is a stitching of the Scottish flag with the initials 'TS' on every Eagles' golf bag. For Sharkey, the Schenkel was his favorite tournament and this year's event would have been his final one.

"He had a great personality and just really brought people to him," Mays said. "He was growing as a player and would have been a big part of our team going forward."

Before the tournament began, Evans made the remark that if the team was to win this year's Schenkel, they would take the trophy and present it to Angela Sharkey for her to keep in Scotland. Little did he know what would happen at the 35th annual Schenkel Invitational.

"You kind of think ahead but really when we're playing, especially in that final round, we're trying, as a team, really hard to focus on the shot at hand. We weren't trying to think ahead about winning," Evans said. "When I first made that statement, I expected us to play well. It's extremely hard

to win the Schenkel. We went out there expecting to play well, but not expecting to win."

The golf team ended day one in second place, but only one stroke behind the leading University of Alabama at Birmingham. Day two was when the magic started to happen. Evans and Anderson each shot a hole-in-one that day, which helped secure the Eagle's round two score as a 12-under-par 276 to move into the lead.

"It didn't really sink in until my next hole," Evans said. "It was pretty cool to finally have a hole in one, especially in the Schenkel, and the crowd got pretty loud."

In the final round of the tournament, the weather conditions were anything but ideal. Despite the cold and rain, the Eagles continued to move ahead. The Eagles ended the tournament with a score of 850, an entire eight strokes in front of second place UAB's score of 858. Junior Scott Wolfes dominated the playing field and became the third Eagle to ever take home the individual medalists title.

"There's been a whole lot of pressure for us to get a win. We



Courtesy of gseagles.com

Roommates and seniors, Will Evans and Hayden Anderson each recorded a hole-in-one on the way to GSU's win at the Schenkel Invitational.

only play one home tournament a year so there's that extra pressure of having just one chance in front of your home crowd," Mays said. "This would have been [Sharkey's] senior season and the seniors kind of dedicated the tournament to him and that added just that extra bit of motivation to the players wanting to represent him well."

Taking the trophy to Scotland was no joke to the golf team. This

October, the team will be making the trip to compete in a tournament and while there, they will take the trophy to Angela Sharkey as a reminder of her son's time and impact at GSU.

"It was obviously a really big high. It didn't really set in until over spring break," Evans said. "It was really surreal when I was holding that trophy up with Hayden and the rest of my teammates."

Hunter Thomas shares how perseverance will pay off

BY JARED MURRAY

The George-Anne contributor

Unforeseen injuries when playing sports at the competitive level can often shatter expectations, which Georgia Southern University junior outfielder Hunter Thomas came to realize after missing the majority of the 2013 baseball season.

Graduating from Chattahoochee High School in 2011, Hunter Thomas presented an arsenal of weapons for athletic scouts. Thomas lettered all four years as a baseball star, played as a safety for the football program and assisted the Cougars to a state championship in high school.

Despite Thomas' successes in both football and baseball, ultimately he was to seek a further

career in baseball.

Thomas said, "Baseball [was] always before football," a view shared by his father, who also played baseball in high school.

As a high school student with athletic

success in numerous activities, Thomas was faced with the important decision of choosing the school with the best fit for him to build into a better athlete, being confronted with offers from Western State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the University of Tennessee and finally, Georgia



Hunter Thomas

Southern University.

Excited for the chance to begin a new career, Thomas chose GSU for the opportunity to play freshman year with high aspirations to develop early on into a star.

However, after an exceptional freshman

season with a batting average of .344 as well as a perfect fielding percentage in 21 chances, Thomas was struck with an injury during his sophomore campaign that could have jeopardized his career. Thomas completely broke his fibula, cracked his tibia and dislocated his ankle.

The severity of the injury was

felt team-wide, as Thomas was unable to play the remainder of his sophomore year. Additionally, he was unable to walk for two months, followed by another month and a half in a boot.

The recovery process for Thomas was gruesome, spending many days completing therapy for his injuries, which he said was assisted by lots of players willing him to return to the starting ranks.

However, through the entire recovery process, Thomas said that his mother was a main influence in his progression with how she offered unfaltering support, often traveling to GSU in order to be as helpful as possible for him during his return.

Thomas said that he is not 100

percent yet. The junior has once again returned to the active squad for the 2014 season, where the Eagles have shown a new era of dominance, assisting the team to a 19-7 start.

This season, Thomas is posting a .227 batting average, nearly returning to form after his long recovery. Thomas' story serves as an encouragement to his team as well as fans of GSU, giving testimony that even when faced with an injury as seemingly insurmountable as his there is always room to get better, Thomas said.

Thomas said that overall he has become more mature as a player and he looks forward to his final year in hopes of continuing the high level of competition the baseball program has seen in the past years.

Ahead of the pack

Senior Dana Edwards as Lead Leg leaving a legacy

BY BRYAN MARSEILLE

The George-Anne contributor

The 82-degree heat blanketing the track in Tallahassee provided the perfect backdrop as hundreds of fans packed the stands at the Florida State Relays last weekend.

When senior Dana Edwards lined up against runners from the University of Connecticut, Florida State, Western Washington University and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, all she could think about was staying in the pack.

Adrenaline racing through her body, the athlete's anxious tension released at the snap of the starting gun. Edwards darted from the starting line, and never looked back.

As the lead leg she set the pace for Georgia Southern University's nationally ranked performance in the 4x400m relay, and third-



Dana Edwards

best in school history. When asked if she enjoys the pressures that come with going first, Edwards said, "I like it now."

Before blazing trails on the asphalt,

Edwards tore it up on the hardwood. As a small forward on Clark Central High School's basketball team, the coach encouraged her to stay conditioned in the offseason by running track. A natural athlete, earning six varsity letters in basketball, swimming and track, Edwards realized her talents translated outdoors.

Edwards performed above her own expectations, earning a ticket on the Eagles' track & field team. Still grasping the sport, the transition from high school to college provided a new learning curve. Though she's made strides as a hurdler and sprinter, Edwards believes her biggest improvement is immeasurable.

"My confidence has been my biggest improvement," Edwards said. "My freshman year I felt like I was just here. I didn't really know how to run. Sophomore year was okay, but I knew I could get better."

When times got tough, Edwards turned to her family for motivation. Kim Edwards, her mother, provided spiritual guidance, reminding her daughter that her talents were given for a reason and to use them to the best of her ability. Contrast that to the you-can-always-do-better advice from Cornelius Edwards, her father, who played football at Morris Brown College.

It also helps to have a twin sister on the team. According to Edwards, having senior Deanna Edwards with her picks her up in ways only a sibling can.

During her junior year, Edwards broke out when Head Coach Marlo Mincey passed the baton and told her she would run as the lead in the 4x400m. Initially reluctant and nervous, Edwards took on the responsibility. Mincey's decision provided right, as Edwards led the team to a memorable second place finish in the Southern Conference championship.

After moving up to fourth all-time on the university record with her performance in the 400m hurdles (1:01:17), Edwards' anticipation and confidence continue to rise as she looks ahead to Saturday's meet.

"I'm ready," said Edwards. "I want to skip this whole week and go straight to the weekend."

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DOUBLE HEADER

MARCH 29, 2014 1:00 P.M.

Softball standouts: Leaders of the pack

BY KATIE TOLBERT

The George-Anne staff

Going after a third consecutive Southern Conference championship win, Georgia

Southern University's softball team is off to a great start. The team ranks first in the SoCon, with the help of four players that really pushed the Eagles through the games over spring break.

Each one of these players had a crucial role in the Eagles going 5-3 over the break, whether it was at bat or in the circle. Three out of these four players are seniors, which means they are determined to end their season on nothing less

than a championship. But the fourth player, a freshman, feels that same drive and has been showing it at bat with consistency. The Eagles will face Western Carolina University at home on Saturday at 1 p.m.



KOURTNY THOMAS
SENIOR INFIELDER

SPRING BREAK:

10 hits
12 RBIs
3 home runs

2014 SEASON:

35 hits
35 RBIs
11 home runs
.389 batting average

"I have been really focused on the outside pitch. Two of the three that I hit were outside pitches that I hit, so it's just something that I've been really focusing on. My dad and I have been coming out here and trying to hit outside pitches all day," Thomas said.



MORGAN ROBINSON
FRESHMAN INFIELDER

SPRING BREAK:

7 hits
5 RBIs

2014 SEASON:

24 hits
12 RBIs
2 home runs
.286 batting average

"I'm just glad I can help the team and contribute as much as I can. I want to help this team as much as I can and win a third SoCon championship," Robinson said.



SHELBY MORRILL
SENIOR INFIELDER/
OUTFIELDER

SPRING BREAK:

3 hits
4 RBIs

2014 SEASON:

22 hits
17 RBIs
3 home runs
.265 batting average

"I've just been trying to maintain a mental focus and continue to work on at-bats one play at a time. This season means pretty much everything so far. This is kind of wrapping up everything for me, you know I've played ball my whole life, so to come out with a championship and possibly further, it means a big deal," Morrill said.



SARAH PURVIS
SENIOR PITCHER

SPRING BREAK:

34 strikeouts
3 wins

2014 SEASON:

126 strikeouts
11 wins

Senior pitcher Sarah Purvis was not available for comment. In January Purvis said, "I have a bunch of personal goals for myself; I want to be an All-American, throw five shutouts, and two perfect games."