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The George-Anne

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## The George-Anne

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# GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE

## ONE YEAR LATER

**Caitlyn Baggett, Morgan Bass, Emily Clark, Abbie Deloach and**

**Catherine "McKay" Pittman** were all future nurses whose lives were cut short. Families and friends remember them as strong, joyous and courageous women who wanted to dedicate their lives to others.

PAGES 7, 8, 9 AND 10



Thursday



High: 88°  
Low: 63°

Friday



High: 86°  
Low: 62°

Saturday



High: 87°  
Low: 61°

Sunday



High: 88°  
Low: 61°

Looks like a storm is heading our way, and I don't mean finals. Friday has a high chance of thunderstorms, but it should be cleared up for a sunny week-end with temperatures peaking at 88 degrees.

## Weather Bar

## HAWK WATCH FINAL UPDATE

By DJ Fullmer

We reported last week the sad news of the third Red-Shouldered hawk egg not hatching in the foreseeable future. However, it was not all bad news with there being two, seemingly, healthy baby hawks that were hatched and striving in their nest.

With a continuous watch of the hawk camera during the first week, it was obvious to see one of the hawks was a bit stronger and more dominant than the other. The GS Wildlife Center Facebook page reported that one of the baby hawks has now passed away leaving one baby hawk alive out of three.

It is seemingly just how nature works, but there was a silver lining, as one baby hawk was

still perfectly healthy. Unfortunately, the final baby hawk has now disappeared as well. There is speculation that the Great Horned Owl took the last remaining baby hawk to feed its own babies. The speculation comes from one viewer of the live stream.

"The individual then disclosed that while watching last night at around 8:00 p.m. a much larger bird made several flights at the nest. While the lighting was poor both the bird's size and telltale 'horns' could easily be seen," written in a GS Wildlife Facebook post.

The live stream of the hawks' nest has officially ceased.

PHOTO TAKEN FROM MICHAEL SENNELLO

## ORANGE CRUSH CALMER THAN LAST YEAR

By Chris Carter

The annual Orange Crush weekend has just passed. The event is a weekend in which college students from across the region travel to Tybee Island. The weekend is a big party on the beach. There is a long history of animosity toward the event by locals. The beach usually gets trashed and last year there were two shootings.

In anticipation of Orange Crush a police force 100 strong made of cops from around the area were gathered. Police from Bryan, Chatham, and Henry counties as well as the Savannah, Jesup and Savannah metro police teamed up with Tybee officials. The visiting officers were deputized to

have authority in Tybee Islands jurisdiction. These officers patrolled the beaches and town. A total of 18 arrests were made over the weekend none of which being considered violent crimes. Most incidents involved traffic violations and drugs.

After the shootings last year, law enforcement felt they needed to take necessary precautions. Despite the history of contempt for Orange Crush by locals this year was an improvement. There was no violence, there was just thousands of college students gathering on Tybee Island to enjoy the sun and the beach.

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Georgia Southern Opera and Georgia Southern Symphony  
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M O Z A R T



A P R I L 22 - 23



7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

FREE  
ADMISSION

By DJ Fullmer

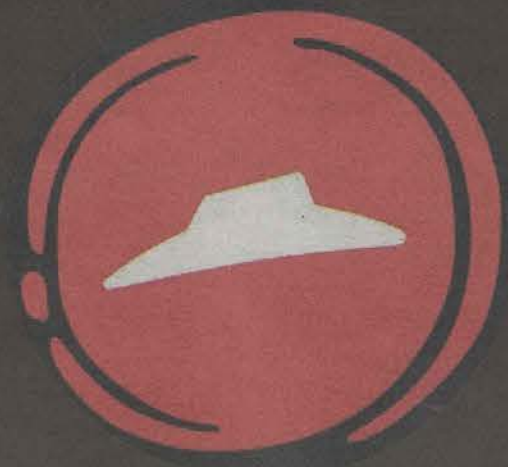
Georgia Southern University's Department of Music is hosting their annual opera this weekend, April 22 and 23, this year it is Le Nozze di Figaro composed by Mozart.

This opera is directed by Arikka Gregory and the performance will be comprised of two acts.

According to reginaopera.org, the plot is based in the 18th century, on Beaumarchais' 1784 play La Folle Journée, ou Le Mariage de Figaro. It follows Figaro, a barber, who is to marry Suzanne while the Count of the land is attempting to lay with Suzanne on the night of their wedding, in accordance with an ancient law the Count tries to reinstate.

As it is known in operas, the plot is hard to follow and oversaturated but it is perfectly balanced by the beautiful music composed by Wolfgang Mozart himself.

The opera is free admission and starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center.



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# Puzzles

4-21-16

3

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## WINGS INCENTIVE PROGRAM 2015- 2016 SILVER STATUS

Alpha Delta Pi  
Alpha Omicron Pi  
Alpha Phi Omega  
Association of Latin American  
Students  
Baptist Collegiate Ministries  
Beta Beta Beta National  
Biological Honor Society  
D.I.M.E.S. Fashion Organization  
Delta Phi Epsilon  
Delta Sigma Phi  
Equestrian Team  
Forte Step Team  
Gamma Sigma Sigma  
Kappa Delta

Kappa Kappa Gamma  
Phi Mu  
Sigma Alpha Iota  
Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc.  
Sigma Nu  
Southern Exercise Science Club  
Student African American Brotherhood  
Student Government Association  
Tau Kappa Epsilon  
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The memorial garden behind the Nursing and Chemistry building. The garden was dedicated on Oct. 19, 2015 in remembrance of the five students that died in the crash on I-16.

## From the Editorial Board

As college students, we are faced with a large amount of change throughout our educational career. We overcome challenges and learn from the experiences that are presented to us. These experiences, good and bad, change and form us. When a terrible tragedy strikes our community, it has the power to change the emotions surrounding our campus.

Nearing a year ago, seven Georgia Southern nursing students were involved in an accident on I-16. Sadly, five girls were killed in the accident. This edition of The George-Anne is another way for these fallen Eagles to be remembered and have their lives celebrated. Our editorial board wants to be able to create a respectful remembrance of these five students.

Not only do tragedies such as these affect our community but they also affect individual students, regardless of whether we have a connection to those involved or not. Each of us can relate to these fallen Eagles and that is why it hits so close to home. This occurred on a road that many students often travel and it could have happened to any of us.

We as a community are not faced with the death of our peers often. There is not a period of time in your late teens and early twenties where you expect the students around you to pass. When anyone around us passes, we are forced to discuss and think about ideas that are difficult to comprehend.

This tragic incident is important to talk about, but

the fact of the matter is that as humans we face mortality everyday. Sadly, more students have passed during the time we have attended GS and while we remember these five students lost, we must also remember the other members of the GS community that have been lost.

"It was tragic to lose those five nurses and it was particularly tragic for me as the former chair of the school of nursing because this had a different meaning for me," Jean Bartels Interim President of GS, said. "But a number of students lose their lives on this campus or while they are at campus...I'm very conscious of all of the students that we lose and we don't memorialize everyone of them and they are just as important. I don't

want us to only focus on these people and to forget some others."

Obviously this incident sticks out to us because we lost five students in the same moment, but it is important to remember that every student's life is precious. Every student who passes, whether through natural causes or a tragic accident, is a member of our community and their death hurts all the same.

While we want to take this day to remember these girls who lost their lives, we encourage those on our campus and those close to the GS community to remember all students who have passed over the years. Let us remember their presence, and revel in the memories that we shared with them.

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

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

**ADVERTISING:** The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478.0566. For questions e-mail [adst1@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:adst1@georgiasouthern.edu).

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

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

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**NOTICE:** Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

**CORRECTIONS:** Contact the editor at [gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu) for corrections and errors.

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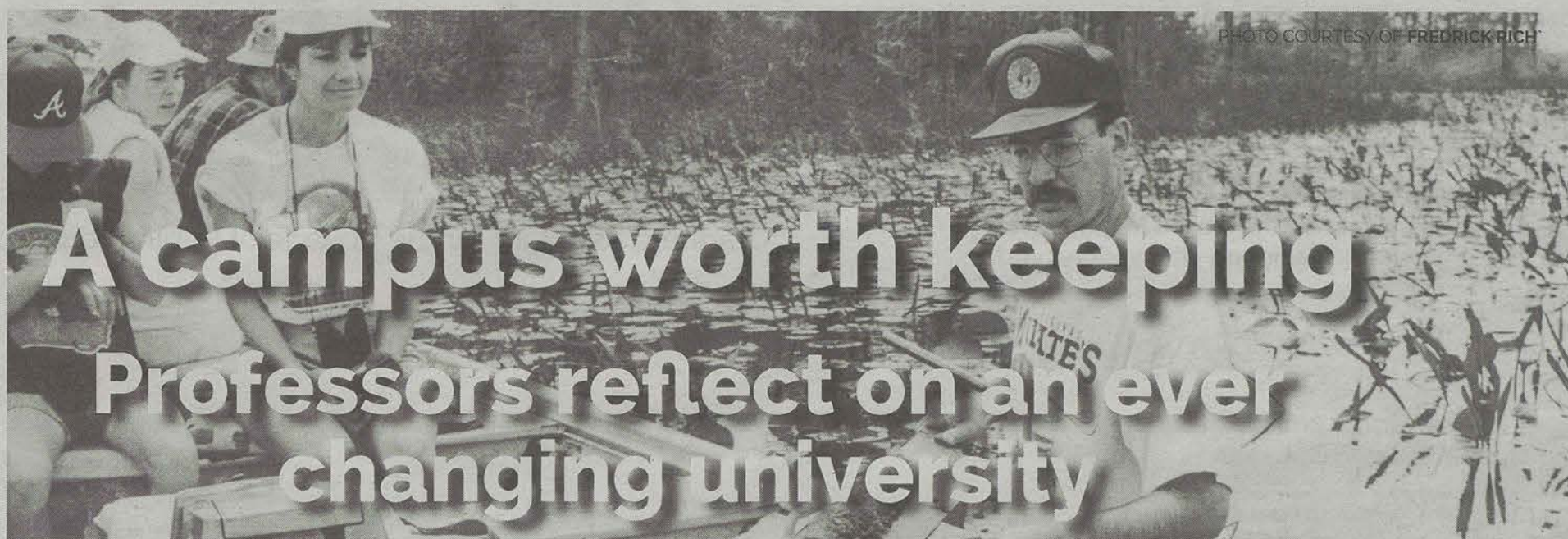
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## A campus worth keeping Professors reflect on an ever changing university

Fredrick Rich in 1990 on a field assignment with geology students. Many professors have said that while the campus of GS has changed, the spirit remains the same.

BY ANNIE MOHR

The George-Anne contributor

The year is 1989: Madonna is at the top of the billboard charts, the Berlin wall won't come down until November and Georgia Southern University is known as Georgia Southern College.

That was 27 years ago, and yet for some professors it seems like merely months. The scenery has changed but the spirit and community of the university has lasted the tests of time.

With the passing years, the university has taken on a new identity, created a bowl-winning football program and excelled academically. So much has changed, but a small group of professors have stayed to watch these transitions take place.

"I came to a cozy little school in a small town," Fredrick Rich, a geology professor who joined the faculty in 1988, said.

According to Rich, the same relaxed atmosphere that he noticed over two decades ago, still holds true to the campus. He notes that the campus itself has changed drastically, with new buildings being added in the recent years. His office used to be a classroom that belonged to the home economics department, which no longer exists.

Despite the architectural modifications to campus, longtime professors have seen little change in the vibe of the school.

"[There are] good working relationships and an acceptance you can't find most places," David Alley, a Spanish professor that arrived at the University in 1988, said.

When Alley came to Georgia Southern, there were around 8,000 students and only nine faculty in the language department.

Fast forward to today, there are over 20,000 students and thirty language faculty members.

The increase in size has changed the experience of being a professor to Alley. "The longer you are here the more responsibility you assume, and it consumes you," Alley said.

Alley remembers a time when faculty throughout departments all knew each other. He was even part of a staff intramural basketball team. He has since found community within his own department.

Alley attributes his positive experience and sense of community on campus as his reason for his 28 years of service.

"If anything here has changed students have gotten more relaxed in class," Diane Phillips, assistant professor of interior design and faculty member since 1989, said.

Phillips states that students often show up in pajamas, which is a huge change from the attire she remembers in 1989.

"All of a sudden I can't believe I've been here this long," Phillips said. "I enjoy my job, the people, the students."

Phillips remarks on how her experience here has come full circle. Friends and old coworkers have all found their way to the university in some way.

Decades have flown by, and it's a true reality that many students will only have four years to experience Georgia Southern. It's clear though that the community here is one of a kind and whether you stay for awhile, or continue your journey, the memories are lasting.

### Notable changes since 1989

#### Working out:

**1989:** The RAC did not exist, instead Hanner was home to student workout facilities, including a pool.

**Now:** The RAC is state of the art facility that offers a variety of athletic benefits to students.

#### Forest Drive:

**1989:** Had just been built as a temporary building for the language department.

**Now:** The "temporary" building is still home to the foreign language department.

#### Dining:

**1989:** The Dining Commons were still known as Landrum, and Lakeside Dining hall was only a blue print.

**Now:** The Dining Commons and Lakeside have been recently remodeled and accommodate unlimited meal plans.

#### Social:

**1989:** Thursdays, Friend's House and Dingus Magee's were the most popular bars.

**Now:** Dingus Magees, Shenanigans and The Rusty Tavern dominate the bar scene.

#### The Library:

**1989:** Henderson Library had a completely different look, with a fully concrete exterior. The first computers have just arrived on Georgia Southern campus.

**Now:** Club Hendy has had a complete facelift and been modernized.

### Five things you'll never see again at Georgia Southern:

**1. Marvin Pittman School** - A K-8 School that was on campus in the same building that is now home to the Art's Department.

**2. Football games at Statesboro High-School** - Before Paulson stadium was built, the Eagles played their games on the High School's field.

**3. The puppet theatre** - This building has been used in recent years as archives and can be located across from Hanner Fieldhouse in the College Plaza Shopping center.

**4. The Eagle village pool** - Before the Eagle Village residence hall was built the area was home to a large pool.

**5. Dorms on Sweetheart Circle** - many buildings on Sweetheart Circle used to be Residence Halls. Sanford Hall was once home to an all boys dormitory.



4/21 WEEKLY BUZZ 4/27



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#### Annual Student Org. Renewal Workshops

**Location:** Russell Union Theatre

Annual Student Organization Renewal Workshop (required for any student organization wishing to obtain Active status for the 2016-2017 academic year). Each organization must send the President and one other student organization officer to ONE of the five (5) organization renewal workshops that are offered in April. We highly recommend that both representatives attend the same workshop together. The Primary Advisor is not required to attend this workshop with the student leaders.

#### Workshop dates & times:

Monday, April 25th, 6-7:30pm, Russell Union Theatre

Organizations are also required to submit their official renewal request online, via MyInvolvement. Submissions open Friday, April 1st and will close on Friday, April 29th. Contact Information: **Kristen VanNoord** at [kvannoord@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:kvannoord@georgiasouthern.edu)

#### YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK

The Weekly Buzz is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

# Poem of the Week

## Trinity 1

By Eniola Olatunji

Graduate Assistant for the College of Public Health

My eyes are sunken

My thoughts are fading

My bones are crunching

My blood is evaporating

Yet my mouth is wide-shut

My spirit is demethylated

My soul wants an exile

My senses seems senseless

My body is dilapidated

But my days are numbered

And my mind is focused

Because there is really a bull's eye

And my best must not be less

Even though I fear the uncertain

Yes I looked in your direction

You showed me a glowing splinter

Even in the stormiest storm

And you rekindled my fading oil lamp

Even in the darkest dark.

"I wish every student the very best in the upcoming final exams.  
GATA - GO AFTER THE As!"



Trees Planted In Memory Of

Caitlyn Baggett

Morgan Bass

Emily Clark

Abbie Deloach

Catherine McKay Pittman

School of Nursing students who lost their  
lives in an automobile accident on the way  
to clinical rotation on April 22, 2015.

"On Eagles' wings you soar."  
alma mater

# Friends and family reflect on the lives of those they lost

**T**his edition of Special Publications is dedicated to the five nursing students who lost their lives in a tragic car accident on the morning of April 22, 2015. It has been a year since this university lost these five exemplary students and in this edition the memory of Emily Clark, Morgan Bass, Caitlyn Baggett, Abbie Deloach and Catherine "McKay" Pittman have been memorialized by the people who were close to them. As students, these five young women each bore unique, exceptional characteristics that have been remembered by their family, friends and loved ones who knew them personally.

//I think those who passed away were good role models. They were very strong women. They were all very unique people," Dr. Sharon Radzysinski, chair of the school of nursing said. "The students have their good days and their bad days, just like anybody else. I think as a group they have come together. . . In general, they're moving forward."

**These five students may be gone but they will never be forgotten by the Georgia Southern community.**





PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH DAVIS

# EMILY CLARK

BY RACHEL KELSO  
The George-Anne staff

Emily Clark's compassion for others never faltered, so it was no surprise when the Georgia Southern University junior chose nursing as her major and future profession.

According to her parents Craig and Kathy Clark and sister Haily Clark, Emily had a deep compassion for children and helping others, and wanted to reassure and comfort children when they were hurting.

Cara Carme, a public relations major who was also Emily's close friend and sorority sister, remembers the day that Emily received word that she had been accepted into Georgia Southern's nursing program.

"I could tell by the wide smile on her face that she had gotten in," Carme said. "I knew she was so passionate about nursing, and after watching her years of hard work leading up to that moment, I couldn't help but feel so happy and proud of her. She cared so much about others, which is why the profession she was going into was so appropriate."

Sarah Davis, another close friend and sorority sister as well as Emily's roommate, seconded Carme's sentiments.

"She never hesitated to put others before herself, which is why nursing was the perfect occupation for her," Davis said.

Emily's compassion didn't just begin and end with children.

Her mother remembers a trip to Dallas, Texas with Emily and one of her friends for a cheerleading competition.

"Emily's team won the very prestigious national championship, but her friend's team did not," Kathy said.

When the group went to dinner that night, Emily did not wear the championship athletic jacket she and her teammates had been awarded because her friend didn't have one.

"Emily didn't want her [friend] to feel bad," Kathy said. "Her compassionate heart made me swell with pride. She always thought of others before thinking of herself."

With soft brown eyes, an infectious smile and a pretty face framed by blonde hair, the 20-year-old could light up any room.

The Clark family specifically recall Emily's infectious smile and ability to fill a room with her laughter.

Emily's selflessness prompted her to routinely put the needs of others before her own. "She got so much joy out of making other people's days a little brighter," Davis said. "She was also an incredible friend."

A long list of memories helps define Emily's brief two decades. Her father counts family vacations, daddy and daughter movie nights, and lake adventures as just a few. He recounts a family cruise during which Emily taught him how to perform the Wobble, a hip-hop line dance.

"Emily never failed to continually tell me how great I was doing, no matter how bad it really was," Craig said. "That was an evening I'll never forget, and I wouldn't take anything for the time I got to spend with my sweet girl."

Davis reminisces of the fun times

she and Emily spent together at Georgia Southern football games.

"As much as she loved Georgia Southern, she had an intense fear of birds," Davis said. "Whenever Freedom would fly across the stadium she would freak out as if he was going to attack her."

Emily served as Vice President of New Members for her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and volunteered for the chapter's philanthropy, Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Her caring nature extended well into her community. Emily volunteered at kickball games for special needs children, sang at nursing homes and made lunches with Must Ministries.

"She gave 100 percent to everything she did," Davis said. "To this day I'm still in awe of how she juggled her schoolwork, friends, family, boyfriend and sorority. She always had a lot on her plate, but regardless, she was always the best version of herself."

Emily had applied to be a counselor at a camp for special needs children, a job she was excited about and hoped to be chosen for.

"We received her acceptance letter," the Clarks said. "Unfortunately she never had the opportunity to know she was selected."

Although her life was tragically cut short, Emily Clark's impact will be felt forever.

"We're about to graduate and get jobs in the real world, and nobody was more deserving of walking across that stage at graduation than Emily," Davis said. "I think that's what hurts the most about losing her."

# CAITLYN BAGGETT

BY ARAYA JACKSON  
The George-Anne staff

Born in Augusta, Ga. and raised in Millen, Caitlyn Nichole Baggett was destined to be a nurse.

Her love and passion for nursing started as a young girl, sparked by her grandmother who was a licensed practical nurse for over 20 years. As Caitlyn grew, so did her drive to be the best that she could be.

"She was a go-getter. Nothing got in her way," Ricky Baggett, Caitlyn's father, said.

Her father and mother, Linda Baggett, couldn't be more proud of the woman she was and all her accomplishments.

Caitlyn was extremely involved with her hometown church, Oak Hill Baptist. She adored the children and you could find her in the nursery on a regular basis. She had a way with kids like no other

and she was looking forward to a future in pediatrics.

She kept herself occupied with her involvement in the church and in the nursery more than anything.

"She didn't want to lose focus on her studies," Linda said.

She not only pushed herself, but her younger sister, Makayla Baggett, as well. According to Ricky, Caitlyn stayed on Makayla when it came to her grades.

"She was a very positive role model for Makayla, always keeping her on her toes about doing the best she could," Ricky recalls.

Makayla was not interviewed, but her family made it very apparent that she truly misses Caitlyn's sisterly companionship.

Caitlyn's family wasn't surprised when their daughter was accepted into the nursing program on her first attempt. Her favorite part of her involvement with the program was waiting on her family to get

home to share the clinical story of the day.

"It blessed our hearts to see her have such a passion for helping others," Ricky said. "She was born a caring person and always put others needs before her own."

The 21-year-old junior had a charisma and a sweetness to her like no other. She was a family-oriented young woman who had big dreams for herself.

"No matter what she did, she tried to set a positive example for others," Ricky said.

Although her life was tragically cut short, her memory will live on. "But for myself, [I] will miss the conversations we had, just me and her about life in general," Ricky said. "In the end she died doing what she loved, nursing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICKY AND LINDA BAGGETT



# ABBIE DELOACH

BY DEVIN CONWAY  
The George-Anne staff

Abbie Deloach's passion for helping others, whether it was through her work in the community, or taking care of patients in the nursing program, was second to none.

Kaitlin Kidwell, Abbie's friend and big sister from her sorority Kappa Delta, said that the nursing program fit Abbie so well because she was such a caring person and that she couldn't imagine Abbie pursuing another career path.

"One of my favorite memories with Abbie was when we were tailgating for a Georgia Southern football game," Kidwell said. "She took us to her cousin's house to use the bathroom before heading over to a tailgate, and while we were there, she leaned up against a huge towel rack on the wall and literally ripped the entire thing out of the wall. We proceeded to take pictures with it because what else do you do when you tear a wall apart? There was never a dull moment with her."

Abbie played a major role in the philanthropic, social and athletic

aspects of her sorority.

"She played in intramurals for Kappa Delta and always tried to lend a helping hand in sorority activities. I think she asked me nearly every week what she could get involved with because she really wanted to help. She was very involved in her church too," Kidwell said.

Allison Jackson, Abbie's friend, fellow sorority sister and nursing student, recalls how Abbie showed up to their intramural flag football practice to "see what it was all about." Abbie later became the team's MVP. She also starred on a basketball team that won the Greek intramural championship.

After one particularly stressful day for the two nursing students, Abbie showed up at Allison's house with grocery bags full of cookies and milk.

"That is just the kind of friend Abbie was. She was always there for you and always wanting to have a good time," Jackson said.

Abbie's friends attest to her unique personality, her incredible personal strength and her ability to persevere through the most difficult of circumstances.

"I want everyone to know that Abbie wouldn't want everyone to be sad, but instead, to remember her jokes and the memories that were shared with her, to remember her advice and to lean on the Lord for understanding," Jackson said.

Kidwell said, "she was one of the most down to earth people you could meet. She was goofy, intelligent, positive and kind. I will always be so proud of the way she handled herself through any situation. I always admired the way she dealt with difficult things in her life. This is an attribute I admired and was so proud of her for always doing and something I've tried to live up to. My favorite thing about Abbie was the person she was as a whole. She was such a beautiful person inside and out. Anyone who had the chance to cross paths with her could attest to her bubbly, kind, and loving personality. I was so blessed to have her in my life."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLIN KIDWELL

# MORGAN BASS

BY YASMEEN WALIAGA  
The George-Anne contributor

Morgan Bass was known as a determined student and uplifting friend who loved to express her girly, glamorous side more often than not.

School was important to Morgan, who aspired to become a nurse anesthetist, preferably working with children. She would always second guess herself and her grade, and would end up being the one who scored better than everyone else in the class, Emily McGuire, one of her closest friends in the nursing program, said.

Emily and Morgan met and bonded very well freshman year and ended up taking all of their prerequisites for nursing together, studying together and working on group projects together. This made them form a close bond going into the nursing program.

"It was nice to have someone [in the nursing program] that you could study with and also be friends with," McGuire said.

"I remember working on this paper for our chemistry class together in her room in Aspen and neither of us could focus. Her room had this lady bug infestation, so we would be trying to work on this paper and ladybugs were just flying all over her room and both of us were terrified of bugs so we were like hysterical and screaming even though, obviously, the ladybugs

weren't going to hurt us," McGuire recalled with laughter.

Bethany Carmen, one of Morgan's pledge sisters in the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, said she and Morgan became close friends their freshman year when they participated in a step team competition for homecoming week. During the next couple of years, the two became roommates and spent much of their time together.

Carmen said she and Morgan were the girls who always went all out when it came to dressing up for socials. She recalls the outfit Morgan wore when they dressed up for an "around the world" social their freshman year and Morgan covered herself in America-themed decor.

"She had this little chipmunk face that she did, but not in public. She would always Snapchat me and do the face and I would screenshot it. If I was ever in a bad mood or something, she would always give me the chipmunk face," Carmen said.

Morgan's friends would often turn to her for nursing advice whenever they were hurt or needed help.

She spent a lot of time binge-watching shows on Netflix, always catching her friends up on the latest details.

"And she loved eating pizza with ranch sauce," Carmen added.

Family was extremely important to Morgan. She would Facetime her

younger brother often, and spoke to her grandma, with whom she lived with, multiple times every day.

"She was the only person who was even more of a best friend of Morgan's than I was," Carmen said.

In addition to her family and friends, Morgan's dog Bella was very special to her. Everything Morgan would buy for Bella would be pink and sparkly because that was Morgan's favorite. On Wednesdays when she would have to go to clinicals, she felt bad leaving her dog, so she would put Bella in Carmen's room early in the morning when she left so Bella wouldn't be alone.

"She was always worried about everyone else. She always put everyone before her and she went the extra mile for everybody," Carmen said.

No matter what was going on, Carmen remembers, Morgan always maintained her happy, peppy and caring nature.

Emily said, "I really think Morgan needs to be remembered for her spirit. Even if she was doubting herself, she wouldn't let you see it. She just wanted to build you up and make you feel like a diva and a princess just like she was."



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY MCGUIRE



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPHA DELTA CHI



## CATHERINE "McKAY" PITTMAN

BY CAITLYN OLIVER  
The George-Anne staff

Many people wonder how they will be remembered after they have passed on and close friends of McKay Pittman will remember her drive to make the greatest impact possible.

"People can live really long lives and do a lot of good but not many people can do much in 21 years," Layne Livingston, McKay's roommate and close friend, said. "She was a real example of making every day count."

Catherine "McKay" Pittman, from Alpharetta, Ga., grew up wanting to be a nurse, following in her mother's and grandmother's footsteps, Livingston said.

"It's like a Pittman women tradition," Livingston joked. "None of us thought she needed a degree in nursing because of everything she had learned from her mom and grandmother."

McKay was always looking out for other people, helping whenever she could.

"She'd drop anything to help people. I got sick one night and called her. I told her 'I know it's 5 a.m. but my symptoms are showing and I really need you to take me to the hospital.' And I didn't know this at the time but she had a test at 8 a.m. but she stayed with me until I was okay anyway," Livingston shared.

McKay attended a bible study through Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru), a large Christian ministry on campus.

Two years ago at a semester prayer rally, she suggested posting prayer requests to a cross that would then be prayed over by each ministry.

"She's not even with us and she's making an impact for Christ, it's a really cool thing," Liz Horne, McKay's bible study leader, said. "You can't talk about McKay without talking about Jesus."

McKay was the image of hard work and this showed in everything she did, from being being a Southern Ambassador to being president of her sorority, Alpha Delta Chi, to studying for her classes.

"I used to come out and she'd be passed out on the couch with a blanket over her, surrounded by her textbooks and homework. She'd stay up and study for so long she'd fall asleep on the couch," Livingston remembered.

Kaitlyn Davidson, a Cru member who met McKay on a Spring Break trip to Miami, said McKay could always be found in a corner in her downtime surrounded by schoolwork.

McKay was a Southern Ambassador until her junior year when she was accepted into the nursing program after her second application.

Livingston said, "She came into my room with the letter and said she didn't make it. I remember her saying 'I just have to trust God through it.' She trusted his plan for her and a spot opened up a couple weeks later. She never gave up, on anything. She always saw closed doors as other opportunities."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAPPA DELTA

PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG AND KATHY CLARK

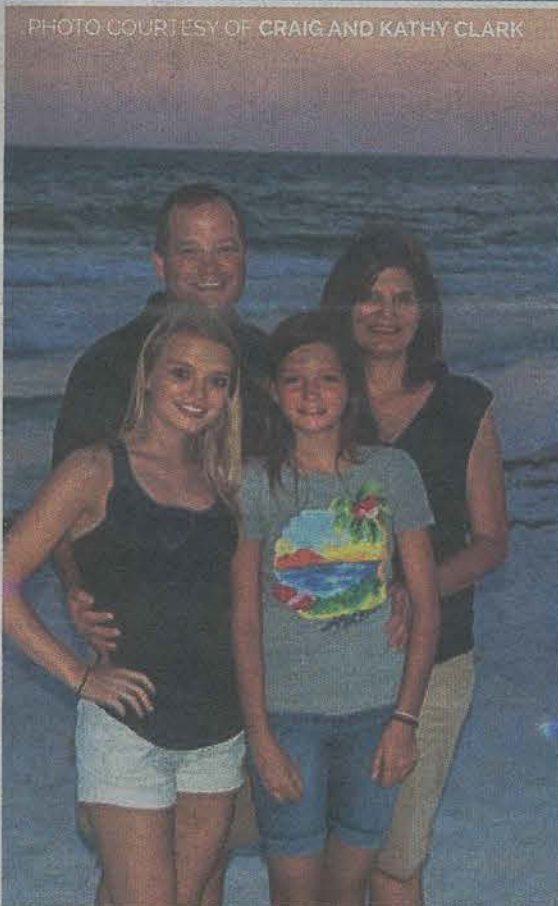


PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY MCGUIRE



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICKY AND LINDA BAGGETT



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPHA DELTA CHI



## Parents of nursing students reach settlement with trucking company

BY TANDRA SMITH AND BLAKELEY BARTEE

The George-Anne staff

A lawsuit was filed against trucking company Total Transportation of Mississippi (TTM) and its driver John Wayne Johnson by the parents of the five Georgia Southern University nursing students who passed away last spring and one survivor, Megan Richards.

Abbie DeLoach, Caitlyn Baggett, Emily Clark, Catherine "McKay" Pittman and Morgan Bass were killed on April 22 when a tractor-trailer slammed into the two vehicles carrying the nursing students on their way to their last day of clinical rotations at a hospital in Savannah.

"We don't use the 'A' word, accident. Accidents are not avoidable. [This was] avoidable," Bob Cheeley, partner at Butler, Wooten, Cheeley & Peak, LLP, said.

The law firm is representing four of the seven victims' families, the father of Abby DeLoach, Jimmy DeLoach, the parents of Emily Clark, the parents of Caitlyn Baggett, as well as one of the survivors, Megan Richards. The families of Catherine "McKay" Pittman, Morgan Bass and Brittany McDaniel, the other survivor, are being represented by other attorneys.

"Since last April when the wreck occurred, we filed the lawsuits, and since then we have been engaged in what is called 'Discovery.' That is finding out what has happened, who is responsible for the failures and the training of this driver and hiring the driver," Cheeley said. "John Wayne Johnson had been fired from a previous trucking company from Dallas, Tx. for falling asleep [behind the wheel] and having a wreck about sixteen months before this wreck occurred."

Cheeley also learned that TTM and US Xpress has a shortage of experienced, veteran drivers. With millennials reluctant to become truck drivers, these two companies were competing with one another. US Xpress bought TTM in 2006 and required the company to provide hiring policies and criteria for hiring drivers. This criteria included no more than three driving

violations over a five year period and you could not have had a major crash in a tractor trailer.

Johnson worked for two previous companies before he was hired by TTM. While working for Steven's Transport, he had a rollover and totaled his vehicle. Johnson then worked for a bus company as a mechanic in Louisiana where he was fired for sexual harassment. Both companies would not recommend him for hire at other companies, and yet TTM hired him anyway.

"They should have ended the interview right there, but they didn't. He clearly did not meet their hiring policies. They decided there was so much incentive and pressure created there at Total Transportation by the CEO to hire drivers," Cheeley said. "They've created such a culture there, and he had so much pressure on his recruiters who are in charge of doing nothing but the [hiring of drivers]. As a result, a man got hired who should have never been hired."

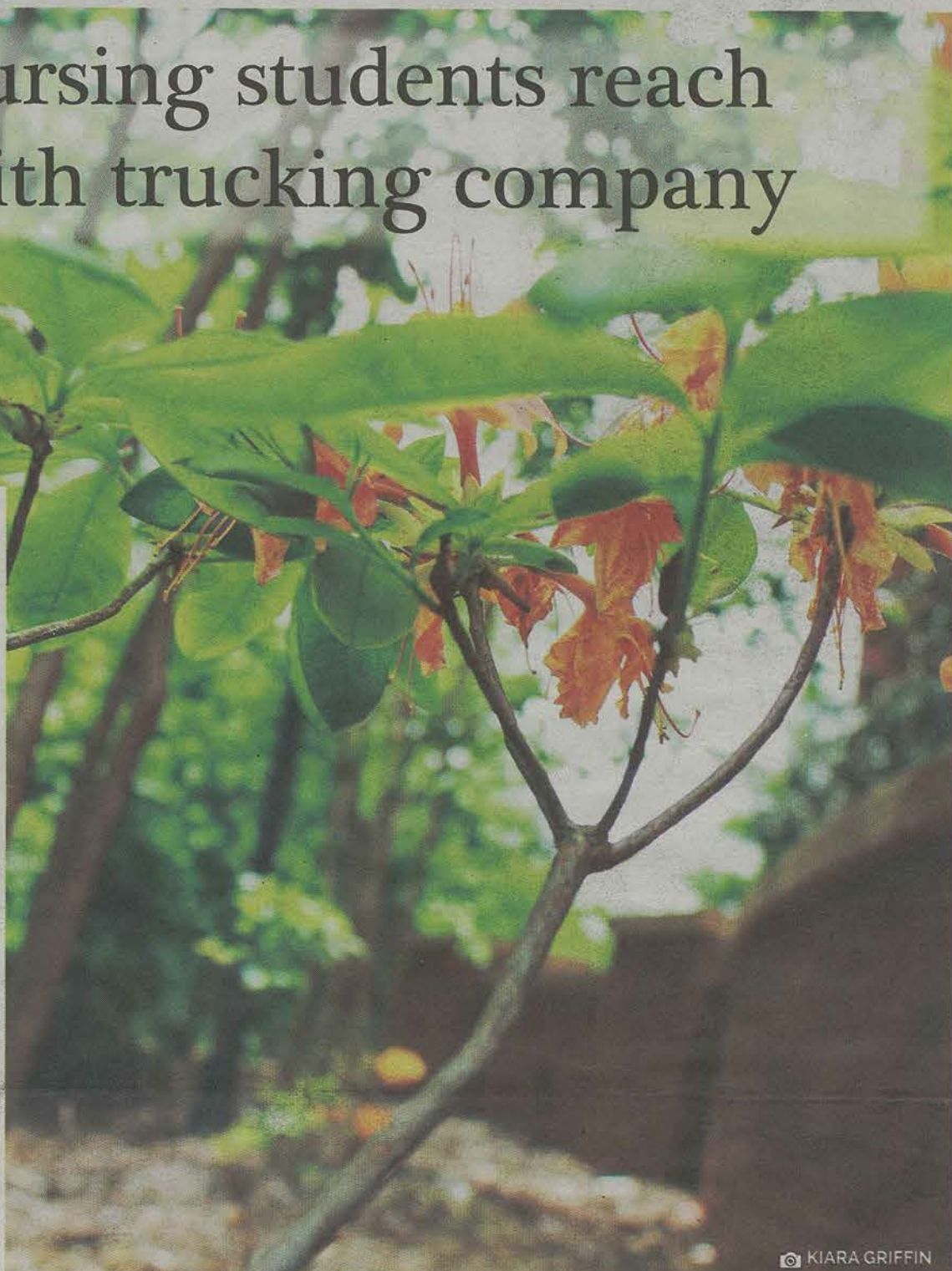
Cheeley adds that it was utterly senseless for a company like TTM to put a man like him behind the wheel.

"So it was not a matter of 'if' there was going to be a fatality someday, but 'when' it was going to happen. These women had to pay the ultimate price for the irresponsible behavior of the trucking companies," Cheeley said.

According to an April 20 press release, Cheeley, Brandon Peak and David Rohwedder of Butler Wooten Cheeley & Peak LLP of Atlanta/Columbus, Georgia and Billy Jones of Jones Osteen Jones of Hinesville, Georgia have reached settlements for their clients. The DeLoach case was set to begin on April 18 while the Richards, Baggett and Bass cases were to commence on May 16.

The US Xpress vice president of risk management declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Total Transportation of Mississippi was unable to be reached for comment.



© KIARA GRIFFIN

A memorial garden was dedicated to honor the nursing students last fall. Four of the five families, along with their attorneys, will hold a press conference today at 11 a.m., in front of the Nursing and Chemistry building.

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# #TheChalkening comes to Georgia Southern

BY DEVIN CONWAY  
The George-Anne staff

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEVIN CONWAY

Multiple messages have been written across campus relating to the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The university sent a reminder last week explaining the places where chalking is allowed.

## *The following locations prohibit chalking:*

Underneath the Russell Union Student Center Rotunda  
All University owned buildings  
Sweetheart Circle  
University Builders Terrace  
The Gazebo  
Recreation Activity Center front entrance

Students have recently participated in 'The Chalkening' movement, with messages written across campus relating to the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

The messages have been diverse in their criticism and support of particular candidates. The messages included: 'Trump 2016', 'Hillary For Prison 2016', '#NeverTrump', 'Trump For Life' and 'Ted Cruz Is The Zodiac Killer', among many others.

The movement has sparked a debate about freedom of speech across campus.

"If liberty in a free society means anything at all, my right to free speech and expression supersedes your 'right' to dislike what I have to say. Freedom of speech is not mentioned in the first amendment by coincidence," Gil Hope, sophomore psychology major, said.

The messages, the majority of which were written on the sidewalk across from Lakeside Dining Commons, prompted the university to send out via e-mail a reminder of the campus chalk policy.

## **'The Chalkening' movement origins**

The movement spread after students at Emory University were greeted by hundreds of conservative political messages written in chalk all across their campus.

The messages, none of which contained vulgar or obscene speech, sparked protests led by chants of 'You are not listening! Come speak to us, we are in pain!'

The extent of the outcry led to the university's president, Jim Wagner, to put out a statement to the student body.

"After meeting with our students, I cannot dismiss their expression of feelings and concern as motivated only by political preference or oversensitivity," Wagner said in the statement.

Students at Emory University were offered counseling services for their grievances, and student organizations that wanted to respond to the incidents

were offered emergency funds by the Student Government Association at Emory.

This story quickly caught national attention, and students at dozens of colleges including Ohio State, Louisville, University of Kentucky, Mississippi State, Iowa State, LSU, Georgetown, N.C. State, Tennessee and even Georgia Southern took this national story as an opportunity to express their own opinions in chalk across each of their own respective campuses.

## **The Chalkening at GS**

There are a few different movements at Georgia Southern that look to spread ideas via chalk, including Chalk the Block, in which a group of like-minded students have committed to sharing motivational and encouraging messages throughout campus.

The founder of the Chalk the Block movement feels that the recent political movement known as 'The Chalkening' sends the wrong message.

"I think it's ineffective, rudimentary and immature. You can't articulate a political statement and appropriately represent the complex issues such as political candidates' validity or their ideologies via this type of medium. You're not convincing anybody of anything - you're just going to polarize them," Andrew Ballard, sophomore communications studies major, said.

Georgia Southern's Young Americans For Liberty chapter organized a chalking event last month that was open to the student body in response to the situation that unraveled at Emory University.

Christian Hart, sophomore IT major and president of Young Americans For Liberty, said, "I definitely think free speech is being threatened by political correctness. It's a form of cultural totalitarianism. The left is succeeding in convincing the populace that diversity in ideas is evil. The modern progressive movement is on a path to limit all speech that they deem unacceptable."

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# Fourth annual 'Out of the Darkness Walk' to be held Saturday



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY MORROW

The walk is aimed to provide resources and raise awareness for suicide awareness. Registration closes at 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

**BY BAILEY ADCOCK**  
The George-Anne staff

Active Minds is partnering with the University Wellness Center to host an Out of the Darkness Walk Saturday, April 23, in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The walk will start at the Rotunda at 10 a.m. with check-in and registration starting at 9 a.m.

"The money goes to creating programs to help those struggling with depression or thoughts of suicide. It also creates programs for people to learn the signs and symptoms of depression to help those in need," Emily Morrow, senior marketing major, said.

Morrow herself was

personally affected by suicide when her freshman year roommate took her own life. For this reason, Morrow states she has decided to help with this year's event.

"I feel it is important that people know that they are not alone in such an important matter, and that walks like this help people to keep fighting because we are collectively fighting the disease rather than doing it by ourselves," Brian Sawyer, president of Active Minds and senior psychology major, said.

This is the fourth year that organizations have hosted this event on Georgia Southern's campus.

These walks are hosted on college campuses around the

nation in hopes that students will become more aware of the threat that depression and suicide hold.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) website, suicide is the second largest cause of death in people ages 18-24.

AFSP hopes that by hosting these walks across the country and putting the money towards various programs, they can lead toward a 20 percent drop in the annual suicide rate by 2025.

"Being the president of Active Minds, I feel it is a duty of mine to break the stigmas tied to one of the biggest diseases face by most students," Sawyer said.

In addition to creating educational programs about

suicide and depression, the money raised by the Out of the Darkness Walks goes towards suicide prevention research, advocating for public policy and supporting what AFSP calls "survivors of suicide loss."

This year a goal of \$5,000 was set for Georgia Southern's walk and the goal has already been met and exceeded with a total of \$6,560 being raised so far. However, they are still hoping for more.

"It's a really important issue to take seriously because we tend to dismiss these things as not serious problems. It affects so many people's health that it deserves to be noticed and recognized as a legitimate issue rather than a flippant one," Westley Jamieson, freshman

mechanical engineering major, said.

Jamieson has known of people who have dealt with depression and anxiety and has seen how these issues affect those close to him.

Registration for this year's Out of the Darkness Walk at GSU can be done in person on the day of the event or online at AFSP.com. Online registration requires users to search for Georgia Southern's event and then register.

Online registration will close at noon Friday, April 22, but walk donations will be accepted until June 30.

For more information you can contact Michele Martin of GSU's Wellness Program at mmartin@georgiasouthern.edu.

## ArtsFest to return after being discontinued earlier this year

**BY BLAKELEY BARTEE AND GEORGE ANDERSON**  
The George-Anne staff and contributor

The Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department (SBCPRD) will host the 2016 ArtsFest, an art festival previously hosted by the Betty Foy Department of Art for over thirty years, in Sweetheart Circle on April 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The purpose [of ArtsFest] has always been an event to unite the community by celebrating the performance of the performing and visual arts through the creation of art experience, performance and tasting of culinary delights," Kimberly Sharpe, committee events supervisor of the SBCPRD, said. "There will be a wide variety of art programs for all ages, from young children to adults."

ArtsFest began in association with a bachelor's degree program that no longer exists at Georgia Southern

University: the B.S. in art education. In addition to the changes in curriculum in the Betty Foy Department of Art, the festival had expanded beyond the department's capacity to effectively manage the event, leading to the temporary cancellation of ArtsFest.

When the Betty Foy Department of Art stepped down from hosting ArtsFest, the SBCPRD saved the festival. The SBCPRD will continue the tradition in Sweetheart Circle, the same location the Betty Foy department chose for the festival in previous years.

The Averitt Center for the Arts has contributed to ArtsFest for 13 years. The center will host three events at this year's festival, including performances by over 50 of their young ballet and theater students.

"We do this to give the community an opportunity to experience all types of arts," Tim Chapman, executive director of the Averitt Center for the Arts, said. "If a kid puts his hands on a hunk of clay and learned to make a pot and thought, 'Wow, I enjoyed this,' they might like to take a class at the Averitt Center."

The festival will offer performances, food vendors, live music and hands-on arts and crafts hosted by community partners, including the Averitt Center for the Arts and the Bulloch County School System.

Jodi Henley, junior family and child development major, said, "I'd go [to ArtsFest] for the food and the music. It seems like a fun environment to go to with friends."



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISITSTATESBORO.COM

Although the event is no longer hosted by Georgia Southern, it will take place on Sweetheart Circle. The event is free and open to the public.

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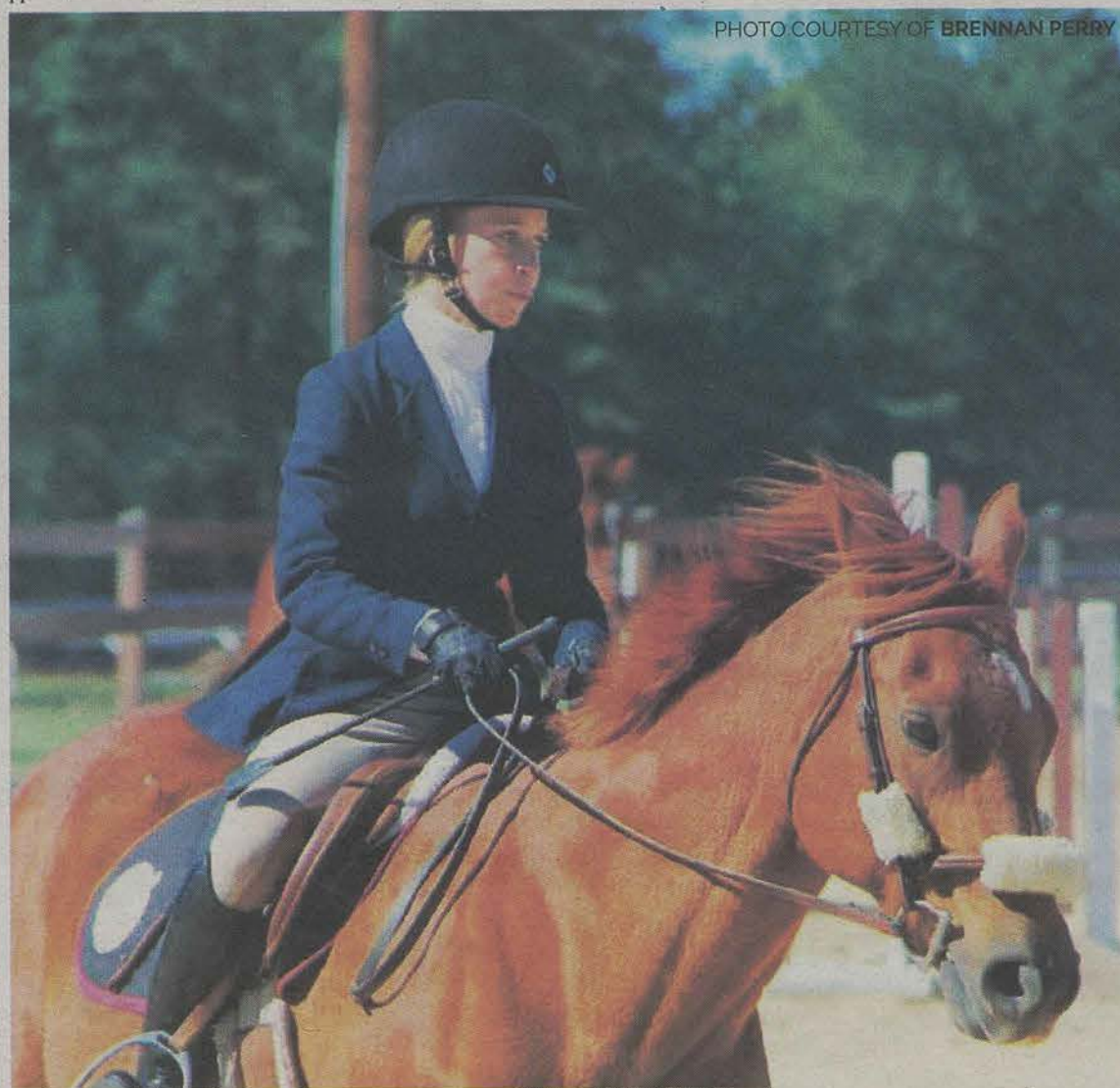


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENNAN PERRY

## Georgia Southern Equestrian team heads to Nationals

Rachel Bird practices her craft in the pen. She will represent the GS Equestrian team at Nationals on May 9.

**BY CAMERON DUNN**  
The George-Anne contributor

The Eagle equestrian team will be representing the University when they travel to Lexington, Ky. for Nationals on May 9.

This sport works a little bit differently than football, basketball, softball or other more well-known sports for that matter. The team travels to about 10 shows per year and competes individually for 10 points, which are based off of positioning of the horse and the jumps during each event.

So while some sports rely on teamwork and chemistry, these riders must showcase their overall skills for the craft to be judged high.

"One cool thing about being on this team is that it gives people the chance to continue their riding careers in college while competing against riders at their level. We are diverse, so it ranges from beginners to more experienced riders," Club President Brennan Perry said.

When asked what the hardest thing about this sport was that others didn't realize, Perry's answer was simple.

"It takes time and practice.

Everyone thinks they can just get up and participate in horse-back riding, and they can, but it takes time, practice, hard work and discipline," Perry said.

The qualifications for Nationals are complex. The season starts in August, and the riders can choose between the English team and or the Western team competing throughout the Fall and Spring. Once the rider gets 36 points, they qualify for Regionals, Zones and then Nationals. There are over 400 teams nationally, meaning competition is extremely high.

The Eagles sent Allison Gilbert to nationals last year, and this year freshman Rachel Bird will get her shot and is thrilled.

"I'm beyond excited, there are not words to describe how excited I am," Bird said.

Bird began riding in the 6th grade under the same coach who would eventually lead her to Nationals, GS's head coach Eleanor Ellis.

Bird will have to use the horse they give her, leading to a lot of uncertainty, but Bird is confident and will look to do her best and represent GS well.

## TRACK AND FIELD TEAM BREAKS RECORDS AT LOWCOUNTRY INVITATIONAL

Four Eagles placed first in their events.

**BY DERIK WUCHTE**  
The George-Anne staff

The Lowcountry Invitational took place this past weekend in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Four Eagles earned first place finishes, and the rest of team recorded 26 top ten finishes, giving the Eagles their best meet so the season so far.

Freshman Jamelia Owens, senior Jasmin Walker, freshman Tatiyana Rayford and sophomore Bailey Willett all earned top place finishes. Owens threw for 44.07 meters in the discus throw, Walker jumped for 5.81 meters in the long jump, Rayford ran 14.52 seconds in the 100m hurdles and Willett earned a 2:14.17 in the 800m.

Other notable performances included senior Keyanna Harris, who earned a second place finish in the high jump with a 1.62m jump. Sophomore Rebecca Parker topped off her school record

in the 3000m steeplechase with second place at 11:26.29. She also earned a fourth place finish in the 3000m with a time of 10:42.87.

Freshman Desiree Blunt earned second in the 100m with her time of 12.24. For the triple jump, Walker was second place with a 11.75m jump. Junior Nia Hill was right behind her at third place with a 11.69m.

Owens and Arnold earned top three finishes in shot put. Owens was second at a 14.17m throw and Arnold was third with 12.08m.

The meet gave a lot of Eagles top place finishes, which will be a major boost as GS heads into Auburn this weekend. The War Eagle Invitational will take place all day Saturday, April 23. This is the among the last three scheduled meets the Eagles will take part in this season.



## PERIL AND PROMISE

In the 1980s, a second wave of refugees to United States - the Mariel exodus - floods Miami. The same decade sees the sudden arrival of hundreds of thousands of Central Americans (Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Nicaraguans) fleeing death squads and mass murders at home. By the early 1990s, a political debate over illegal immigration has begun. Globalization, empowered by NAFTA, means that as US manufacturers move south, Mexican workers head north in record numbers. A backlash ensues, but a sea change is underway: the coalescence of a new phenomenon called Latino American culture-as Latinos spread geographically and make their mark in music, sports, politics, business, and education. Is a new Latino world being created as the Latino population and influence continues to grow? Or will Latinos in America eventually assimilate into invisibility, as other groups have done so many times?

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GS ATHLETICS

Yeji Shin uses her iron to get the ball to the green. She was named All-Tournament and finished sixth overall.

## WOMEN'S GOLF FINISHES FOURTH IN SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP

BY ROBERT GEORGE  
The George-Anne staff

The Women's Golf team placed fourth at the Sun Belt Championships earlier this week. Iben Hvass and Yeji Shin led the Eagles on the final day to help secure a top half conference finish in their inaugural season.

"They have really come together as a team unit this

year, and it has been amazing to see the growth in their golf games and themselves as student-athletes," head coach Emily Kuhfeld said in an interview.

Shin finished sixth overall, and was named All-Tournament. The freshman has put together a solid season and is looking to continue to grow.

"Yeji had her best finish of

the year at this event, and I could not be happier with the way her game is progressing," Kuhfeld said.

This was a very young team featuring four freshmen and two juniors. They will look to continue to progress and get better this offseason.

Kuhfeld said, "the best is yet to come for this special group."



MADISON REYNOLDS

The Eagles run the basepaths. They are 9-9 in the Sun Belt this season.

## Georgia Southern hosts Little Rock this weekend

BY STEPHANIE MATZELLE  
The George-Anne contributor

The Georgia Southern Eagles will be playing Little Rock this upcoming weekend in the J.I. Clements Stadium.

Little Rock and Georgia Southern will both be going into the series on a three-game winning streak.

Little Rock is 3rd in the conference while the Eagles are 6th. Little Rock has the best batting average in the Sun Belt Conference at .304. Ryan Scott has the best batting average in the conference .451.

GS is 3rd in pitching with an ERA of 3.36. Freshman Chase Cohen has been stellar all season, boasting a 2.05 ERA and a 4-2 record.

First pitch on Friday night is at 7 p.m.

### Mid-week recap

The Eagles routed The Citadel 10-2 on Tuesday night.

Lawson Humphries earned his second win of the season, going five innings and giving up two earned run on three hits.

Anthony Paesano, Connor Simmons and Landon Hughes combined to throw four innings of no-run baseball in relief.

The team showed balance on offense, as seven players combined for 10 hits on the night.

Ryan Cleveland and CJ Ballard each knocked in three RBI's in the game. Cleveland now has 33 RBI's on the season, good for most on the team.



KIARA GRIFFIN

Hannah Farrell tracks a pop up in the infield. They will take on Troy this weekend in conference play.

## Eagles take down South Carolina Gamecocks

BY ROBERT GEORGE  
The George-Anne staff

The softball team (26-19) continued their strong season with a road win over SEC foe South Carolina (32-13) on Tuesday evening 6-4. Alesha Mann, Lydia Witkowski and Hannah Ferrell each homered to push the Eagles to victory.

Dixie Raley went the distance on the mound again and picked up the win, giving up four runs on seven hits. She struck out three and stranded eight SC runners on base.

"I am really happy for this team to get a statement win tonight," head coach Annie

Smith said. "I keep dragging our team to games against SEC opponents as well as other tough games and they have learned how to compete in big games like this."

The Eagles were 0-13 against SEC teams in the last three seasons heading into this game. The win continued the team's hot streak, and they've won eight of their last 11 games. They sit 3rd in the Sun Belt and are four games back of first place.

They will travel this weekend to take on conference foe Troy, who sit just behind them at fourth in the conference. First pitch on Saturday is at 2 p.m.

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