The George-Anne

April 21, 2016

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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.
**HAWK WATCH FINAL UPDATE**

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 thriving 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.

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**Orange Crush Calmer Than Last Year**

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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**FROM MICHAEL SELLELL**

**ORANGE CRUSH CALMER THAN LAST YEAR**

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**GS's Department of Music to host a MOZART COMPOSED OPERA**

**LE NOZZE DI FIGARO**

Mozart

**APRIL 22-23**

7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

FREE ADMISSION

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's 1784 play Le Pêle-Mêle, ou Le Mariage de Figaro. It follows Figaro, a barber, who is to marry Susanne 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.
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
Delta Sigma Phi Forte Step Team
Gamma Sigma Sigma Kappa Delta
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
Tou Kappa Epsilon University Programming Board
Women of Worth
Women’s Rugby Club
WVGS 91.9 FM “The Buzz” Zeta Tau Alpha

To contact the creative manager, email prodmgr@georgiasouthern.edu
The memorial garden behind the Nursing and Chemistry building. The garden was dedicated on Oct. 19, 2015 in remembrance of the five students who died in the crash on Tl6.

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 lost their lives on this campus or while they are at campus...I’m very conscious of all 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.
A campus worth keeping
Professors reflect on an ever-changing university

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 test 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 was 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 been 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 Magee’s , 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 had 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 all boys dormitory.
Choose Southern for Summer!
On campus or online, smaller classes and shorter terms help you graduate on time. Get ahead with more than 300 online courses, and 100+ summer jobs available for students taking summer classes. Register today! Deadline is May 1, 2016. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/summer

Apply for Student Support Services!
Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Education that provides comprehensive services to first-generation students, limited income students, and students with disabilities. The primary goal of SSS is to help transition, retain, and graduate college students. For more information please visit the SSS website at em.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/SSS. Applications are currently available under the "Apply" tab. If you have any questions please contact us at (912) 478-8746 or SSS@georgiasouthern.edu

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

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!"
The lives of those they lost

Friends and family reflect on

This 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 Radzyminski, 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.
CAITLYN BAGGETT

BY ARAYA JACKSON
The Georgia-Annie staff

Born in Augusta, Ga. and raised in Milford, 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 involvement in the church and she was looking forward to a career in pediatrics. Her mother counts family vacations, daddy and daughter movie nights, and lake adventures as just a few. Her father counts family vacations, daddy and daughter movie nights, and lake adventures as just a few. Her love for nursing began as early as she can remember.

Caitlyn was extremely involved with her hometown church, Oke 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 she was looking forward to a career in pediatrics. Her mother counts family vacations, daddy and daughter movie nights, and lake adventures as just a few. Her love for nursing began as early as she can remember.

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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 cleaned 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 when you tear a wall apart? There was never a dull moment with her.”

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Abbie’s friends attest to her unique personality, her incredible determination, and her kind, caring nature.

“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 everyone before her and she went the extra mile for everybody,” Carmen said.

“Morgan 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 go to clinic, 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 herself 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 everyone before her and she went the extra mile for everybody,” 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 go to clinic, 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.

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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 everyone before her and she went the extra mile for everybody,” Carmen said.

Morgan 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 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 was the only person who was even more of a best friend of Morgan’s than I was,” Carmen said.

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

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

“We are blessed to have her in our lives.”

To contact the news editor, email ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu
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 (Cm), 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 always looking out for other people, helping whenever she could. "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.

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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. Occidents 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 Abbie DeLoach, Jimmy Deloach, the parents of Emily Clark, 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.

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.
TheChalkening comes to Georgia Southern
BY DEVIN CONWAY
The Georgia Southern

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 TheChalkening 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 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 over-sensitivity," Wagner said in the statement.

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."

To contact the news editor, email ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu
Fourth annual ‘Out of the Darkness Walk’ to be held Saturday

BY BAILEY ADCOCK
The George-Ann star

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

The walk is aimed to provide resources and raise awareness 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 thinking about 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,” 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 held 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 15-24.

AFSP hopes that by hosting these walks across the country, and putting the money towards their 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 stigma 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 Walk 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 $6,900 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 mmartins@georgiasouthern.edu.

ArtsFest to return after being discontinued earlier this year

BY BLAKELEY BARTEE AND GEORGE ANDERSON
The George-Ann staff and contributed

The Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department (SBCPRD) will host the 2016 ArtsFest, an art festival previously hosted by the Betty Fox 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 Fox 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 Fox 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 Fox department chose for the festival in previous years.

The Avett 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 the center’s 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 Avett 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 Avett Center.’

The festival will offer performances, food vendors, live music and hands-on arts and crafts hosted by community partners, including the Avett 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.”

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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To contact the news editor, email gamedead@georgiasouthern.edu

Page designed by Margarita Suarez
PERIL AND PROMISE

In the 1980s, a wave of refugees to the United States - the Mariel exodus - flooded Miami. This same decade saw 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?

By Derik Wuchte
The George-Anne contributor

LATINO AMERICANS
THE 500 YEAR LEGACY THAT RESHAPED A NATION

Rachael 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 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 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 Rachael 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.

In the 300m steeplechase with second place at 11:26.29. She also earned a fourth place finish in the 300m 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 all three top finishes in shot put. Owens was second at 11.75m, and Arnold was third with 11.08m. The meet gave a lot of Eastern Conference points 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.
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."
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