The George-Anne

Student Media, Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/george-anne

Part of the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation

This newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Media at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in The George-Anne by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.
ROAD TO RECOVERY

How Hurricane Maria impacted the families of GS community members
Pages 5-7

JOINING THE CONVERSATION

GS conducts research on concussions
Pages 9-10

SGA AT WORK

Senators continue semester projects to benefit GS
Page 8
Graduate School Fair

Wednesday, October 11, 2017
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Russell Union Ballroom

To see a list of participating schools, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/career.

Office of Career Services
Contact the Office of Career Services at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/career. 903-478-9197

Georgia Southern University

Facebook
@GeorgiaSouthernStudentMedia
@TheGeorgeAnne
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

Twitter
@TheGeorgeAnne
@SeeAtSouthern
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

Instagram
@gsuStudentMedia
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

Snapchat
@TheGeorgeAnne
@SeeAtSouthern
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

Boronests.com
Whose house? Your house!

Customize
Search
Compare

Penny Wars

by Fraternity & Sorority Life

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Russell Union Rotunda
All this week

Students will raise money throughout the week of Homecoming in support of the services and programming of the 39 fraternity and sorority chapters at Georgia Southern University. Money will be collected at the designated time.

FOLLOW US!

FACEBOOK
@GeorgiaSouthernStudentMedia
@TheGeorgeAnne
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

TWITTER
@TheGeorgeAnne
@SeeAtSouthern
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

INSTAGRAM
@gsuStudentMedia
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

SNAPCHAT
@TheGeorgeAnne
@SeeAtSouthern
@TheCircleGSU
@ReflectorGSU

Vote for your favorite candidate for Homecoming King, Queen, Duke, and Duchess on MyInvolvement! Voting closes at 2 p.m. on Thursday.

OSA T-Shirt Swap

Every day this week 11 a.m. at the Russell Union Rotunda

Students can exchange non-Georgia Southern University collegiate apparel for a brand new Georgia Southern Homecoming t-shirt. Don't have a collegiate t-shirt to swap? Simply pay $2 and bring any other t-shirt and you can own one! Remember to bring your Eagle ID. Only 175 t-shirts are available per day so get there early!
Traditions are what allow us to remember where we came from while striving to become who we want to be.”

As we go into Homecoming, check out Brooke Thompson’s story on Georgia Southern’s many traditions by visiting reflectorgsu.com.

*COMEDY SHOW*

7:00 P.M. TONIGHT
HANNER FIELDHOUSE
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.

Prepare to laugh your feathers off! The University Programming Board is excited to bring you this great comedy show!

From MTV’s hit show Wild N’ Out: Rip Michaels, Darren Brand, Karlous Miller and Chico Bean!

This show is free and open to the public.

Warning: Adult content. The university’s Clear Bag Policy will be strictly enforced.
A LOOK INTO AN AUTOMATED FUTURE

RYAN REDDING
Ryan is a senior marketing major from Bloomingdale, Ga.

BY THE MID ‘20S TO THE LATE ‘20S, YOU’LL START TO SEE A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN SORT OF HOW MACHINES RUN THE WORLD.”

GREG CREED
CEO of Taco Bell’s parent company, Yum! Brands Greg Creed, stated, “I don’t think it is going to happen next year or the year after, but I do believe that probably by the mid ‘20s to the late ‘20s, you’ll start to see a dramatic change in sort of how machines run the world.”

In the world we currently live in, people will do anything to make a quick buck. Artificial intelligence is far cheaper and easier to manage than a human worker. After years of education and planning for the future, it is hard to think that a machine can be a reason for you not to have a job.

With technology becoming more advanced every day, the market becomes more and more competitive. We are all taking the first step by putting ourselves ahead of the crowd that did not go to college. This, however, may no longer be enough to secure a job. Joining clubs and getting internships that you can put on your resume are now essential to future employers. Without them you may end up having to get a job flipping burgers, assuming robots have not taken that over yet.

The plot of these movies, which are typically set in the distant future, normally follow the idea that artificial intelligence has gained a mind of its own and decides to use this new knowledge to destroy the human race.

Whenever I think about a robot invasion, my mind tends to drift towards the same scenario depicted in the films. In our modern world, the threat currently surrounding the ongoing spike of robots taking over jobs is not a new idea in Hollywood. The newspaper stories that are being used for legitimate products and services only.

As it turns out, the jobs that robots are taking over are becoming more and more skilled. In the U.S., 61 percent of jobs in the financial services sector are at a high risk of being replaced by artificial intelligence. We are no longer just talking about Charlie Bucket’s dad losing his job putting caps on toothpaste tubes, these are jobs that require actual skill from educated people that are being replaced.

A graph posted by Business Insider shows the top eleven jobs at risk of being replaced by AI, the graph incudes jobs such as lawyer and personal financial advisor. In a recent interview with CNBC the CEO of Taco Bell’s parent company, Yum! Brands Greg Creed, stated, “I don’t think it is going to happen next year or the year after, but I do believe that probably by the mid ‘20s to the late ‘20s, you’ll start to see a dramatic change in sort of how machines run the world.”

CNN reports that 38 percent of jobs in the U.S. are at high risk of being replaced by robots and artificial intelligence over the next 15 years. But it is okay, we are in college! We are spending four years (if we are lucky) putting ourselves ahead of the crowd that did not go to college. This, however, may no longer be enough to ensure a job. Joining clubs and getting internships that you can put on your resume are now essential to future employers. Without them you may end up having to get a job flipping burgers, assuming robots have not taken that over yet.

As we all take the first step by putting ourselves ahead of the crowd that did not go to college. This, however, may no longer be enough to ensure a job. Joining clubs and getting internships that you can put on your resume are now essential to future employers. Without them you may end up having to get a job flipping burgers, assuming robots have not taken that over yet.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University. Operated by the Student Affairs Budget Committee for more information, new cards, or samples 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 the space error occurred in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and is irresponsible solely 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 offers to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when responding to ads—particularly those that require personal information. Students are also urged to be cautious to the newspaper any suspicions offers which they may see in an ad.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION: The newspaper is printed by The Statesboro Herald in Statesboro, Ga.

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 georgia@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

STAFF LIST
Editor-in-Chief: Jozsef Papp
Coverage Managing Editor: Tandria Smith
Enterprise Managing Editor: Ian Leonard
Daily Managing Editor: Blakely Bartles
Engagement Managing Editor: Avery McNeil
News Editor: Matthew Enfinger
Features Editor: Ashley Jones
Sports Editor: Thomas Jia
Opinions Writer: Ryan Redding
Creative Editor in-Chief: Lauren Grozik
Creative Managing Editor: Rebecca Hoag
Photo Editor: Kelly Lowary
Design Editor: Caylie Cremeans
Features Designer: Shelby Cusson
News Designer: John St. Lewis
Sports Designer: Ra’Kel Brown
Marketing Manager: Hayley Clark
Business Manager: Kanyatta Brown

The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor. Opinions and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, typed, and sent via email in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) format to letters@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. All copy submitted should include your name, major, tenure, and hometown. The editor reserves the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions and are not necessarily those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU. For questions, e-mail letters@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne student newspaper at Georgia Southern University, operated by the Student Affairs Budget Committee for more information, new cards, or samples 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 the space error occurred in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and is irresponsible solely to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.
Hurricane Irma had already impacted Puerto Rico two weeks ago. The storm, measured as a Category 5, caused widespread loss of electricity as an indirect hit.

And then Hurricane Maria arrived. It was a Category 4 storm. This time, it was a direct hit that cut across Puerto Rico from the southeast to the northwest. Maria further decimated the power grid and cell phone towers, and has made resources such as food, water and gasoline even harder to attain. It has also contributed to 36 official deaths as of Oct. 8, according to CNN and weather.com. Please considering communication problems on the island, though, the actual death toll could be much higher.

As well, the storm has impacted relatives of Puerto Ricans. Statesboro relatives of those people all had one thing in common: they seemed anxious to make sure their family was okay.

**MAKING CONTACT**

Lizaida Perez-Collazo, senior English major at Georgia Southern University, has family that lives in the southern Puerto Rican town of Ponce.

“There was no way to communicate with them. There’s a pain with not knowing,” Perez-Collazo said.

She especially wanted to talk to family members like her aunts and grandparents who live in Ponce.

“One aunt was able to call from a Chili’s that she works with... I actually missed the call, and I felt so bad, but she got in contact with my uncle [in North Carolina],” Perez-Collazo said.

“She wasn’t able to tell us too much, because there were other people in line waiting to talk to their families.”

Her aunt relayed to her uncle that the rest of the family was alright, and that had power. However, they had little water, the aunt said.

Perez-Collazo was also concerned about her other aunt. Fortunately, her maternal grandparents were willing to help with that.

“My grandpa got a ticket for Puerto Rico on Monday [Oct. 2] and he is going to come back on Friday [Oct. 6] with my aunt who has a child and is pregnant, and she’s going to stay with my mom in Griffin,” Perez-Collazo added.

Perez-Collazo elaborated that her grandparents on her father’s side will come to the U.S. mainland until November. They are trying to address a few concerns like tending to her great-grandparents, who are over 90 years old.

“Grandpa is in talks with my grandma about permanently moving here, just because they owned a business that was completely destroyed, a restaurant,” Perez-Collazo said. “It was a boardwalk... they’re talking about moving here because the likelihood of that being fixed and moving forward is very low.”

The GS Associate Dean for Student Conduct, Zwindel Gandia Torres, also has family, ranging from parents to grandparents to cousins, in northern and southern Puerto Rico. She heard from her parents the day after the hurricane.

“She has learned that her parents’ house partially flooded, and her aunt in southern Puerto Rico, closer to where the hurricane’s eye passed, lost part of her house. However, nobody she knew was injured.

“Let’s be honest, a lot of it [the damage] is material. They’re safe, they’re alive,” Gandia Torres said.

**WHEN IT’S YOUR CHILD**

Other people in the mainland, like GS geology professor Steve Guggino, Ph.D, actually has a daughter, named Ariel, in Puerto Rico.

His ex-wife, Carmen, Ariel’s mother, called the day after the hurricane to tell Guggino that everyone was alright in Fajardo, a town in northeastern Puerto Rico.

“It was such a relief to hear from her, because I was tracking it [the hurricane] all night long, because they [in Puerto Rico] got it at night,” Steve said.

He explained from his observations that Fajardo, being in the east-northeast quadrant of the hurricane’s path, experienced some of the highest winds in the hurricane. The weather had not abated that much when Ariel called him the next day.

“The winds are still 50 miles an hour, tropical storm strength... after that day, I didn’t hear from them for a week,” Steve said.

Guggino then kept seeing news stories of people dying from mudslides, not having food or water or people being limited from moving supplies because the roads are blocked.

“It was just worried and worried. I keep trying to call and call and can’t get through. And then last week, I finally get through,” Steve said. “It was such a relief. I was almost in tears.”

He can now talk to her once every day or every couple of days. The George-Anne was able to contact Ariel Guggino on Friday, Oct. 6.
WHAT GUGGINO AND HER FAMILY EXPERIENCED

Ariel Guggino, 24, is a senior geology major at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez. However, she has been in Fajardo the past couple of weeks.

She originally thought she would stay in Mayaguez, since the storm was forecast to be Category 1. However, her opinion changed as Hurricane Maria got closer.

“I turn on the news, and they’re like ‘Oh, it’s a category five. And I’m like ‘oh, that’s a different story,’” Ariel said.

If she had stayed, Guggino would most likely have been able to communicate with her family in Fajardo. As well, her apartment’s roof is made out of zinc, so she thinks it may not have withstood the storm.

Her mother picked her up on Sept. 18 and they drove back to her mother’s house in Fajardo. The weather worsened and reached its climax in the middle of the night.

“It [the wind] was so loud that to communicate with my mom, we had to shout at each other, literally shout because we couldn’t what we were saying,” Ariel said.

The wind ripped things like the doors to some of Carmen’s storage space, only to throw it back against the windows of the house. Luckily, the windows had protection, Ariel Guggino said.

“They didn’t open the house’s windows until almost 2 p.m. The storm came to a lull for a short time, allowing Guggino and her mother some time to survey the damage.

“All of the trees were blocking the entrance of my house, so we couldn’t go very far to actually see without a machete, to cut small trails, actually get out and see what was going on in the neighborhood,” Guggino said.

The wind started to pick up again around 6 p.m., so Guggino and her mother went back inside the house. They went to see her grandparents, whose house is like the family headquarters, the next day, on the 21.

VISITING FAMILY

They first had to clear a path for the car, and after doing so, drove until reaching the private road that led to Guggino’s grandparents’ house, which sits on top of a mountain.

“After we saw my grandparents’ house, we had to leave the car at the side of the road and get the machete and make a trail... we walked about a mile to get to the house,” Guggino said.

It took Guggino and her family two days to clear the road to her grandparents’, but they had a little help. While Guggino and her mother were visiting an aunt and uncle, the town had construction equipment out clearing the roads.

“We saw one of them [the machines] clearing up the main road in the county, and we were like ‘hey, could you go up our road?” Guggino said.

While the town workers explained that they put clearing public roads first, Carmen heard one of the workers say that they woke up very early but did not have coffee.

“My mom was like, ‘well, I know where you can get coffee, but if you want to get some, then you’re going to have to clear up our road.’” Ariel said. “They’re like, ‘Dammit!, so all of them came up our road to get the coffee.’

And we were like, ‘we haven’t told you the whole story. You have to go up a hill,’ and they were like, ‘Oh, for coffee, we’ll do anything!’

The workers then cleared up everything up to the top of hill where Guggino’s grandparents live. They sat and stayed for a while drinking coffee before going back to clearing off public roads.

THE STRUGGLE FOR RESOURCES

Once they could move around, Guggino and her family noticed that they did not have gasoline for their car or their generator.

“People like my grandparents, they have a tank full of water, but they can’t use if they don’t have electricity. That’s why they have a generator. That’s why they need the gas,” Ariel said.

Getting gas was challenging, though. Customers in Fajardo would wait in long car lines for a whole day, only to be told not to get full tanks of gas, that a station had sold out or that a station had been confiscated by the government.

Guggino mentioned that her family would bring gasoline back to her grandparents’ house, so that they could share it.

“Same thing with groceries. We bring all of the groceries to my grandma, because she is the only one with a gas stove, so she’s the only one that can cook,” Ariel said.

The lines for gasoline did not seem as bad as before to Guggino, but transportation opened the door to other needs.

“Now, everyone needs their food. The lines that used to be for the gasoline are now for the supermarkets,” Ariel said.

She described scenes of supermarkets either being almost empty and letting in a few people at a time or being closed because generators for the stores were not working.

“It worries everyone because we’re consuming, but until now [Oct. 6] I haven’t seen the trucks that bring to the food to the places to be filled up,” Ariel said.

Even though gasoline for cars is generally more available, Guggino elaborated on a tension between getting power and food.

“The news says we have a lot of food. We’re going to start distributing with the truck drivers,” Ariel said.

The problem is we’re running low on diesel. Now everyone has generators, and they need diesel to run them. But then if everyone uses the diesel for the generators, there’s not enough for the trucks,” Guggino said.

Guggino realizes her situation could be worse. She explained that people in less accessible areas, like the mountains, may not have had any type of help for water or food.

WORK AND PLAY

POST-HURRICANE

With the hurricane knocking out many electrical sources of entertainment, Guggino has found time to chat with her family and neighbors.

“Sometimes my mom and I will sit out on the porch and watch the stars, because finally we can see them,” Ariel said.

There is also plenty of post-hurricane work to do for Guggino. Her grandparents’ roof is still littered with tree debris. Her grandfather, an electrician, has also needed help providing service to some of his clients.

“His clients can [still] contact him... he gets signals from time to time, or sometimes he can just go to his clients’ house and check in them,” Guggino said. “So sometimes we get in his truck and help him out, taking gasoline to the generators and helping him out with the work.”

WAITING

Guggino still has not heard any official news from The University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez, or the west side of the island in general.

“I don’t know anything about my friends, my apartment, my car... anything over there,” Ariel added, “but once the university says ‘we’re back on schedule’, I’ll go back and study to finish my degree. I’m supposed to graduate in December.”

Though there are many unknowns as Puerto Rico moves forward in the recovery process, Guggino and her family are trying not to focus on the negatives.

“Ariel said, “We’re all struggling to find that stuff, but we all have a positive attitude... things happen, but those things, you have no control over them, so you have to look beyond that and do what has to be done.”
Two people walk through the drink aisle at Ralph’s Supermarket in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. There are no more sodas or water in the store.

FUNDRAISING FOR PUERTO RICO

HERE ARE SEVERAL OF THE CHARITIES RAISING FUNDS FOR PUERTO RICO.

1. HEART TO HEART INTERNATIONAL
2. INTERNATIONAL RELIEF TEAMS
3. MEDSHARE
4. PROJECT HOPE
5. RED CROSS / CRUZ ROJA
6. UNIDOS POR PUERTO RICO

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESEARCH THESE OR ANY OTHER CHARITIES BEFORE DONATING, YOU CAN GO TO WWW.CHARITYWATCH.ORG OR WWW.CHARITYNAVIGATOR.ORG.

NOTE: THIS IS A SUGGESTED, BUT NOT EXHAUSTIVE, LIST OF CHARITIES CURRENTLY RAISING FUNDS FOR PUERTO RICO.

FOR ALL MAJORS!

LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
Eagles in D.C. and Georgia Legislative Internships

MEET AND GREET
Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 4-6:30 p.m. Russell Union
Come enjoy some free pizza & talk with former interns!

SPECIAL GUEST:

Annalee Ashley
State and Government Affairs Officer
Former Legislative Staffer and Former LIP Participant

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/legislativeinternships. For more information, contact legislativeinternpgm@georgiasouthern.edu
SGA announces
Fall 2017 senator projects

Student Government Association (SGA) senators are currently working on over 45 senator projects for this year.

SGA President Dylan John said this increase from five to six projects a year to placing all 45 senators on individual projects is largely due to a change in the framework of how SGA is run and the inclusion of the SGA Vision 20/20 project.

Rather than one administration picking four or five different topics, SGA is now spread more across campus, said Keely Lassig, SGA Chief of Staff.

"There’s a reason why there are projects," Lassig said. "They stemmed from things we saw that weren’t really working... so [Dylan John] has had a lot of time to kind of mold SGA into something that can be really sustainable."

The current SGA administration believes that senators picking their own projects is crucial to the success of the organization, randomly assigning senators project will not have as effective of an outcome, according to Lassig.

"Basically, what I tell senators is to pick something that you are passionate about and will put work and effort into and will be proud to talk about," Lassig said.

The following are upcoming SGA Senator projects.

"Bosses, Babes and Brunch"
A lecture called "Bosses, Babes and Brunch," will be held in the Russell Union Ballroom on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event, organized by SGA Senator Isabelle Thomas, will host speakers Dean of Students Patrice Jackson and Cindy Breshears, Chief Transformational Officer at Bluewolf and IBM Company. Both will share their experiences in the workforce from a woman’s perspective, said Lassig.

First annual SGA week
The biggest SGA event overall according to Lassig, is the first annual SGA week. The week will have a different name every year, this year’s being "Issa Week."

It will begin on Nov. 6 and run for the entirety of the week. A different event will be scheduled every day to represent individual senators and their projects.

"Crossing the Fence"
An ongoing project called "Crossing the Fence," will be SGA's attempt to spread its presence on campus, said to Lassig.

According to Lassig, SGA intends to spread their presence from the area of campus that SGA feels they have the most coverage, all the way to where their coverage is lacking which Lassig said is from lakeside on, ending near the RAC.

"Crossing the Fence," will be partnering with other senator projects, in order to expand their reach.

"Every senators project, even if it’s an event, will continue throughout the year," Lassig said. "A good 50 percent of [senators] projects is the sustainability of it, making sure that it can last into next year."

SGA announces
Fall 2017 senator projects

October 14, 2017
5K/10K starts at 8:00 am - 1/4 Mile Kiddie Run starts at 9:15 am

REGISTER TODAY
CRI.GS/TRUEBLUERUN

Find your #RAClife #TRUEBLUE

Page designed by John St. Lewis
To contact the news editor, email ganeved@georgiasouthern.edu
CRUSADING AGAINST CONCUSSIONS

How a research team at Georgia Southern is helping to shape the narrative around the enigmatic brain injury

BY THOMAS JILK

Speaking at a football coaches’ seminar, Nicholas Murray looked out into the audience to see sparse attendance. He knew more coaches were at the event. He knew they had decided to skip his presentation.

They would rather mingle in the hallway than face an issue threatening public opinion about the safety of the South’s most coveted sport.

Murray is no stranger to the concussion stigma. The Georgia Southern University kinesiology professor and director of concussion research has been confronting the effects of concussions head-on since his arrival from the University of Texas-El Paso in 2014.

“A lot of people don’t want to hear it,” Murray said. “They want to ignore it and I know people still, to this day, even at the higher levels of sport who just say ‘well, concussions are a myth.’ I’ve had coaches recently tell me that. They go ‘everything you do doesn’t really matter because it’s not real.’”

But Murray understands that just because the field of research surrounding concussions is still in its infancy, that doesn’t mean the research isn’t real.

THE TEAM

Murray’s mind is not the only one at GS set to the task of broadening the body of knowledge concerning the effects of concussions. He is joined by two other professors: Tamerah Hunt, Ph.D., from the athletic training program, and Barry Munkasy, Ph.D., of the kinesiology department.

The professors work closely with the athletic training department, especially the associate athletic director for sports medicine, Brandy Clouse.

A group of graduate assistants conduct evaluations in the biomechanics lab – on the bottom floor of the Hanner Building - recording and analyzing a plethora of concussion research data.

Aside from conducting original research, the team assesses and monitors GS athletes who have suffered head trauma and allows members of the community, including children, who are affected by blows to the head, to be analyzed.

Hunt explained that the work done in Statesboro is well-rounded compared with other universities.

“The testing that is occurring here at Georgia Southern is comprehensive in nature,” Hunt said. “It takes into account multiple factors, so we’re looking at balance and posturography, we’re looking at visual tracking, we’re looking at cognitive abilities. We’re looking across the board, not just one or two pieces of the puzzle.”

The team’s contributions range from tangible, published research to intangible and insightful advice to parents wondering aloud if they should let their kids play football.

Murray underscored the importance of working collaboratively with the athletic training staff to make sure all head injuries are treated properly.

“Our sports medicine staff is outstanding,” Murray said. “We take it very seriously that we invest a lot of money and tools and things to help us with a diagnosis.”

Sensors are in the GS helmets in practice and in games and if a hit on a player reaches a certain force threshold, that player is assessed for a concussion. The team is always watching.

“We have spotters on the field, spotters in the stands, if anyone takes a large hit, we assess them,” Murray said.

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

By using the Wii Fit Soccer heading game, Murray and Munkasy discovered in a groundbreaking 2016 study that athletes who had suffered a concussion 24-48 hours prior to testing exhibited excessive eye movements compared to non-concussed subjects.

“We discovered that vision actually plays a role in all this,” Murray said. “When you have too many of those movements of your gaze, they become error-ridden and you don’t get the information from the environment that you need.”

This means that if a running back suffers a concussion and insists on staying in the game, he may not see a linebacker coming from his blind side because his gaze is averted elsewhere, making him susceptible to further injury.

Murray said the consequences of constant eye movements could contribute directly to on-field issues “like colliding with another player, balance problems, not being able to see the hurdle that you’re going to jump over, or missing the ball or missing the tackle.”

In about 90 percent of sport-related concussions, regardless of age or gender, the athletes exhibit visual abnormality to some extent, according to Murray. The question then becomes how long do these effects last?
It remains unclear, although Murray said certain noticeable symptoms seem to hang around for a month or more. “They’re still very elevated in terms of their abnormalities in their balance and posture,” Murray said. “They’re at day 30 and they still haven’t recovered.”

Hunt is zeroed in on educating young athletes and parents, and one of her studies quantified how a concussion-education video is an effective tool to steer injured athletes toward reporting symptoms rather than trying to hide them.

According to the study, Hunt found “an increase in the reporting of concussion history and knowledge of symptoms after watching a concussion-education video.”

This is based on the idea that a majority of high-schoolers are unaware of the potential consequences of concussions. These include the degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) that has been discovered in the brains of 99 percent of NFL players who reported symptoms during their lifetimes. CTE has been blamed for the suicides of prominent football players like Junior Seau and Aaron Hernandez.

Hunt is part of a team that was recently given a Centers for Disease Control grant to explore how to change the perception of head injuries. “What this grant is going to look at is how we educate the parents, the coaches, the referees, the athletes,” Hunt said.

UNCHARTED TERRITORY

While certain studies reveal troubling results for athletes involved in violent sports like football and boxing, the researchers’ understanding is still too incomplete to steer kids away from these sports. “We know so much, but we know so little,” Hunt said. “There’s no longitudinal study that studies a student-athlete from the age of 5 when they may start playing sports and then tracks them through retirement from a professional sport, so we don’t know.”

She added that some studies, including the recent one that received national media attention for resulting in 99 percent diagnosis of CTE in former NFL players, have biased samples and cannot be completely trusted.

“Until we know the true long-term effects … I think it’s hard to make just a blanket statement that this is what’s happening,” Hunt said.

Murray acknowledged that the science is opening eyes for some people, if not for the coaches in denial refusing to listening to his presentation.

“Contact football participation is dropping, and I think it’s primarily because the parents are scared,” Murray said. “Or they know, maybe, the facilities don’t have access to appropriate health providers and medical care.”

Hunt cited the benefits of football, including “socialization, team sportsmanship and discipline,” as (for now) outweighing the negative effects of repeated blows to the head. Murray, a die-hard Los Angeles Chargers fan, agreed: “Take away football from our lifestyle, it changes the way that we act, I think.”

He said kids learn to become better adults when they play sports, but that accessing children in order to study them is a huge challenge. “Another challenge, he said, is getting people to acknowledge the science. According to Murray, some college football programs report having zero concussions every year, which he thinks is “really, really farfetched” and a result of the stigma of being injured in football. Players don’t report because they don’t want to be seen as weak, and coaches don’t report symptoms because they aren’t looking for them.

“We listen to the science and we apply the science,” Murray said.

THE BIG PICTURE

In an incisive column written recently for The Washington Post, legendary journalist George Will wrote, in light of recent research, that the sport of football would never again be “the subject of uncomplicated national enthusiasm.” The fact that players consistently topped 300 pounds nowadays makes collisions that much more dangerous because – thanks Isaac Newton - as mass increases, so does force.

Dr. Bennet Omalu, the researcher credited with discovering CTE portrayed by Will Smith in the major motion picture “Concussion”, has said that letting kids play football should be considered “child abuse.”

TOM Brady has been under fire for telling reporters that his concussion history was none of their business. The issue has stepped onto the national stage over the past ten years. As researchers publish findings and prominent figures weigh in, the concussion research team at GS remains steadfast in its contribution.

Hunt said, “As things are coming out and the world is evolving, Georgia Southern is staying up with the times of the evolving world that is concussion.”
Across
1 Pre-entree course
6 Artist Chagall
10 Pond organism
14 Words of wisdom
15 The Beehive State
16 Lass
17 Theme
18 Son of Jacob and Leah
19 Carbon compound
20 Appropriate
22 Print measures
24 Farm animal
25 Sandwich filler
28 Furtively
30 Tax deduction
32 Sharp turn
33 Doing nothing
34 Resting place
36 Travel options
41 “The End of the World” singer Davis
43 Unkempt hair
44 Construct
46 Kind of appeal
47 Like Solomon
48 The globe
50 Summer cooler
52 Last resort, maybe?
56 Cared for
57 Cutting tool
58 World view
59 Memory unit
60 Twofold
62 “See you later!”
64 Impolite look
68 Growing room

Down
1 Hammett’s detective Spade
2 Brooches
3 Back muscle, familiarly
4 Rabbit-rouser
5 Besmirch
6 Stubborn beast
7 Dined
8 Poe bird
9 Brightly printed fabric
10 Cause of wrinkles
11 Come-ons
12 Dog’s warning
13 Back street
14 Sales booth
15 Bake, as eggs
16 Steal
17 De Gaulle’s birthplace
18 Football side
19 Concept
20 Rivals
21 Minute bit
22 Asian nurses
23 Motherless calf
24 Floor it
25 Pull strings?
26 Key material
27 Dove’s sound
28 Duration
29 Dentist’s advice
30 Start
31 Kind of gun
32 Draw forth
33 Bygone leaders
34 Malice
35 Physicist Niels
36 Authorize
37 One-spot
38 Brewpub offering
39 Greek vowel

Copyright ©2017 PuzzleJunction.com
October 9-14 | GS Eagles vs. New Mexico State

GeorgiaSouthern.edu /Homecoming

MONDAY, OCT. 9:

Banner Competition
(by the Office of Student Activities)
Student organizations design theme-related banners that will hang on the Pedestrian through the week of Homecoming.

T-Shirt Swap
(by the University Programming Board)
11 a.m. at Russell Union Rotunda
Students can exchange non-Georgia Southern University collegiate apparel for a brand new, Georgia Southern Homecoming t-shirt. Don’t have a collegiate t-shirt to swap? Simply pay $2 and bring any other t-shirt and you can own one. Remember to bring your Eagle ID. Only 175 t-shirts available per day. Be sure to get there early!

Tuesday, October 10:

Doo-Dah Dance and Step Show
(by the University Programming Board)
7 p.m. at Hanner Fieldhouse
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Prepare to laugh your feathers off! The University Programming Board is excited to bring you this exciting comedy show! Comics: Darren Brand, Chico Bean, Rip Michaels and Katious Miller of MTV’s Show-Wild N Out.
Remember to bring your Eagle ID.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11:

Doo-Dah Dance and Step Show
(by the University Programming Board)
7 p.m. at Hanner Fieldhouse
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Prepare to laugh your feathers off! The University Programming Board is excited to bring you this exciting comedy show! Comics: Darren Brand, Chico Bean, Rip Michaels and Katious Miller of MTV’s Show-Wild N Out.
Remember to bring your Eagle ID.

THURSDAY, OCT. 12:

Screaming Eagles
(by the Residence Hall Association)
7 p.m. at Russell Union Balroom
Come out and enjoy a lip sync competition you will not forget. Bring your Eagle ID!

SaturDay, OCT. 14:

TRUE BLUE 5K/10K RACE
(by Campus Recreation & Intramurals)
8 a.m. at the Recreation Activities Center (RAC)
Student and community members can stay active and participate in this year’s True Blue 5K/10K all while sporting their Georgia Southern University colors and apparel. Visit georgiasouthern.edu for registration information.

Crowning of Homecoming King and Queen
(by the Office of Student Activities)
Halftime at Paulson Stadium
Two students, nominated by their organization and voted for by their peers, will be crowned the 2023 Homecoming King and Queen!