The George-Anne's

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Process of training K-9 dogs at UPD
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statesboro ga housing options

BY NOELLE WALKER
The Reflector staff

From dorms to apartment living, Statesboro, Georgia has many housing options for students. However, finding the ideal place to live that is affordable and of great quality can be stressful. I’ve put together a list of (most of) the residences available in Statesboro.

Southern Downs
Southern Downs’ clubhouse is 24 hours which is perfect if you want to play pool with your friends at 2 a.m. or watch television all night.

Floor Plans: Prices may vary
2 Bedroom/2 Bathroom: $529
2 Bedroom/2 ½ Bathroom: $549
3 Bedroom/2 Bathroom: $449
4 Bedroom/2 Bathroom: $349

Amenities (May differ with floor plan): Washer & Dryer, walk-in closets, etc.

Savannah Bell, a junior anthropology major, said, “Southern Downs is a nice place to live and the pool is super nice. The only thing is that the apartments are a little small, and there’s not a whole lot of storage space. Other than that, it’s a great place for the rent price.”

Axis
Don’t worry about buying a parking pass on campus because Axis is located on Georgia Southern’s bus route. You can even take a dip in the hot tub before going to class.

Floor Plans: Prices may vary
2 Bedroom/2 Bathroom: $525
3 Bedroom/3 Bathroom: $440
4 Bedroom/4 Bathroom: $400

Amenities (May differ with floor plan): Fully furnished, washer & dryer, internet, cable (HBO & Cinemax included), community amenities, etc.

Russell Land, a junior mathematics major, said, “Some people are turned off by Axis from their crime in the past, but I think it is one of the safest places to live near campus. It is a gated community with a security guard. It is now only exclusive to students and it is a ten minute walk to any building on campus. It is also close to the blue bus route. For the price, it has got to be the best value in Statesboro. Most places like Hamptons, Aspen, etc. are not worth the price.”

Monarch 301
Monarch 301 is located just minutes away from campus. With its multiple floor plans, huge pool, 24 hour gym, and more, it is sure to have something to make anyone happy.

Floor Plans: Prices may vary
2 Bedroom/2 Bathroom (Two Floor Plans): $645/$675
4 Bedroom/4 Bathroom (Two Floor Plans): $545/$539

Amenities (May differ with floor plan): Dishwasher, washing machine, dryer, internet, refrigerator, etc.

Caleigh Shaw, a senior writing and linguistics major, said, “I really like living at Monarch because of its proximity to campus, and it’s a complex that makes me feel safe with needing a key to get in the building. I also like the floor plans and the furniture it comes with.”

The Vault
The Vault is a prime spot to live with your three other friends. It’s so close to the stadium that you can just walk to Paulson on game days.

Floor Plans: Price may vary
4 Bedroom/4 Bathroom: $389

Amenities (May differ with floor plan): Washer & Dryer, balcony, community amenities, etc.

Ashley Reyes, a sophomore secondary education major with a concentration in biology, said, “Personally, I like that it’s so inexpensive for being so close to campus and it’s all inclusive!”

Read more of Noelle’s story at reflectorgsu.com

Thursday
High: 79°
Low: 45°
10 percent chance of rain

Friday
High: 71°
Low: 44°
0 percent chance of rain

Saturday
High: 74°
Low: 51°
0 percent chance of rain

Sunday
High: 70°
Low: 59°
50 percent chance of rain

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Friday High: 71° Low: 44° 0 percent chance of rain

Saturday High: 74° Low: 51° 0 percent chance of rain

Sunday High: 70° Low: 59° 50 percent chance of rain

0 percent chance of rain

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912-681-1166

BY NOELLE WALKER
The Reflector staff
Finals Week is the time in a college student’s life where you have seriously reconsider your life choices. It’s so daunting we actually feel the need to contribute to future heart problems, and there’s a genuine fear those bags under your eyes aren’t just jokingly designer but actually permanent.

Finals suck. We can all agree, but there’s really no way around them. We don’t pay thousands of dollars a semester just to complain then fail, so we have to make the most out of it. While our first reaction might be to hibernate in Club Hendy with a coffee maker for the next week, check out these other places around campus and town to hunker down. Who knows—maybe the change in scenery will help you think.

Read more of Cheryl’s story at reflectorgsu.com

Check out all the highlights of last weekend’s spring football game! @thecirclegsu.com

CAMPUS LIFE

GSU Student Media
@GSUStudentMedia

CATCH A RIDE TO THE MAINSTREET STATESBORO FARMER’S MARKET!

Time: April 21 and 28, pickup times at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Location: At the roundabout behind Russell Union (next to the Union parking lot)

Come shop the farmer’s market in downtown Statesboro downtown Sat/Sun and the Center for Sustainability have partnered to offer you and your friends a free ride to the market every Saturday beginning April 19th! You’ll get to meet local farmers, see fresh produce, and enjoy music, arts and crafts, baked goods and more! Hope you come! Contact Information: TrevaMozey@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

HIV TESTING

Time: April 19, 1 - 4 p.m.
Location: Russell Union

Free HIV testing for all students.
Contact Information: Genea Skuraton, (912) 478-1283

UPS Mr. Georgia Southern University Scholarship Pageant
Time: April 19, 7 p.m.
Location: Russell Union Ballroom
Mr. Georgia Southern University is a competition for students of Georgia Southern. Contestants will compete in the following categories: On-Stage Question, Formal Wear, Spirit (Spirit) Talent, and Street. The competition entices the audience as our panel of judges select who will be Mr. Georgia Southern University. Participate in spirit events across campus and gain the opportunity to host different events. Advancing the community is a key component of the pageant. Contact Information: Gemma Skuraton, (912) 478-1283

An educational event to provide students with tips and information about reducing the use of tobacco products. Contact Information: Gemma Skuraton, (912) 478-1283

Fresh Fruit Friday
Time: April 20th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Russell Union
On an ongoing monthly basis, students will be given the opportunity to taste cups of in-season fresh fruit. Students will also be educated on the health benefits associated with each particular fruit provided.
Contact Information: Gemma Skuraton, (912) 478-1283

UPB Movie: Den of Thieves
Time: April 20, 6 and 8 p.m.
Location: Russell Union Theater
See a movie on a Friday night! Join the UPB Programming Board for our bi-weekly, Friday movie series. The event is free and open to the public. Students please bring your Eagle ID. There will be two showings of this movie: 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Concessions will be available for purchase. Cash sales only if you need assistance, related to access for the event please email: upb@georgiasouthern.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
Contact Information: UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu

Archery Date Night
Time: April 20, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.
Location: Shooting Sports Education Center
Join us for an archery date program designed for shooters that want to learn a new life skill while having fun with your special someone. This is not your typical date night! It will consist of some education of how to safely shoot a bow and arrow, including proper shooting form, aiming and scoring. All equipment is included so all you have to do is show up and have fun. The night will conclude with archery fun and games and prizes for a little competition! This event is open to the public. You do not have to be a member to participate.
Contact Information: Campus Recreation & Intramurals (912) 478-5436

Finals are a time when you’re shaving years off your life with the lack of sleep, you know the stress is going to be worth it? You’re shaving years off your life with the stress and the choices. It’s so daunting we actually feel the need to contribute to future heart problems, and there’s a genuine fear those bags under your eyes aren’t just jokingly designer but actually permanent.
Opinions

YOGA CAN PROVIDE SUNLIGHT in the midst of a dark isolated storm

TORI COLLINS

Tori is a junior journalism major from Lithonia, Ga.

I am a third year college student and like many other college students, the last two years I battled a tremendous struggle with sporadic feelings of depression. Emotions of feeling misunderstood, lonely, overwhelmed, and worthless with no motivation to do anything. Opening my eyes every morning in disappointment, because here I am another day, lacking the desire to want to exist.

Earlier this week I had the pleasure of joining a yoga class offered by Campus Recreation and Instrumentals (The RAC). Various types of yoga classes are offered at different times and days every week, throughout the semester. I had not attended one of these yoga classes since my freshman year of college.

Reminiscing, on the enjoyment the yoga classes once brought to me, I thought I’d take time to join another one.

The soft voice of the yoga instructor, the mellow tunes luring in my ear and the dimmed lights provided the perfect ambiance of a safe place to allow my mind, body, and spirit to be at ease.

The yoga class brought me peace, allowing me to substantially collect my feelings and thoughts. The quiet room gave me a space to feel relaxed, where I could not only benefit from physical gain, but also benefit from internal emotional gain.

The yoga instructor assured all the participating yogis that this is their own personal practice, and that there is no pressure to continue a certain exercise, that one may not feel comfortable with.

Being in an environment of complete serenity, escaping the expectations and pressures of the outside world was absolute bliss.

Commonly when people pose the question of “How are you?” or “How’s your day going?”, they typically are asking the question with want of receiving a very surfaced like response.

When most people are inquiring about someone else’s health or one’s own health, they typically consider the physical feeling of the stomach and head, or the limbs, or perhaps the practice of exercising and dieting correctly.

Not many people consider the non physical aspect of health. The most important factor of health. Which is the power and vital importance of mental health.

Depression is real. Most people like myself, who are reserved in expressing their most personal emotions, and who fears being judge incorrectly or treated like a "charity case" go through depression alone.

After much time and extreme stress, I am blessed everyday to have defeated my depression and I cherish my life in a way I didn’t know was possible before.

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Depression is real. Most people like myself, who are reserved in expressing their most personal emotions, and who fears being judge incorrectly or treated like a “charity case” go through depression alone and in silence.

After much time and extreme stress, I am blessed everyday to have defeated my depression and I cherish my life in a way I didn’t know was possible before.

I am grateful to be at a university that provides resources to not only allow students to prevail in the classroom, but also provides resources to contribute to the wellness of their students health.

The yoga instructor closed the class by communicating kind words. She wished to every yogi to give love and receive love. Namaste.

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 912.478.9648 or at gazettgeorgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING:

The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.6148 or 912.478.9648. For questions, e-mail ads@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support in part from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, free 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 any suspicious offers to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they receive 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 gazettgeorgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

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The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or less, 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. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU, the Student Media, or the University System of Georgia. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU, the Student Media, or the University System of Georgia.
Pick Your Favorites & WIN

Best Coffee • Best Mexican Food • Best Pizza
Best Donuts • Best Japanese Food • Best BBQ
Best Wings • Best Dessert • Best Buffet
Best Happy Hour • Best Live Music Venue

Go to thegeorgeanne.com to take the survey. @thegeorgeanne on Twitter and facebook.

By submitting a vote, you will be in the running to win a $25 VISA Gift Card to be used at any of your favorite picks.

RULES:
• One entry per person.
• One pick per category.
• All entries will be placed in a drawing with the winner to be announced through email in The George-Anne Daily Email Newsletter on Monday, April 23rd.
• To subscribe to The George-Anne Daily Email Newsletter, go to thegeorgeanne.com and click subscribe.

VOTING will be open now until Saturday, April 21 at Midnight.

WINNER will be announced through The George-Anne Daily Email Newsletter on Monday, April 23rd.

BE MORE with an MBA

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/MBAinSavannah
Jonathan McCollar
2017-2018
The George-Anne Statesboro Citizen of the Year

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The George-Anne Staff


Raising in Statesboro, McCollar attended and graduated from Statesboro High School in 1992 and received his bachelor’s of arts degree in history from Georgia Southern University.

From then McCollar’s story of leadership and civil service begins.

Pivotal moments
McCollar said one of the pivotal moments in his life was when he was 18 years old and decided to leave Statesboro to pursue his education at Albany State University.

“I think the most empowering thing there was with me being a person of color, seeing individuals that looked like me in powerful positions,” McCollar said. “The smartest kid in the class looked like me. The professor looked like me. The president of the university looked like me. That was very helpful for me coming from a community where growing up I never saw anybody that looked like me in any form of a powerful position.”

McCollar later returned to Statesboro to complete his undergraduate education at Georgia Southern University and later received his Masters Degree. He graduated in 2007.

McCollar said while in Statesboro he continued to volunteer in the community with the local Boys and Girls Club and as a lay coach for Portal Middle School’s girls basketball team.

“God has blessed me to learn to be a part of a lot of young people’s lives but sometimes I believe the universe puts you into a situation that you can’t fix in order for you to learn something about yourself.”

McCollar later became the director of the alternative school in Bulloch County and created the Resurrection Project to help underprivileged teens.

“It was exposed to me what the real problem was and the real problem was the fact that these kids did not have resources,” McCollar said. “And so I began to ask the question: What are the resources? Who are the people that have the resources? How do we get the resources?”

McCollar said his career in arrival he was informed that he did not have the appropriate forms and funds to apply for the qualifying fee.

“This guy that was standing next to him was listening to the conversation and he walked with me and we just started talking vicariously and asked ‘Why do you want to run?’ and we just talked. He then cut me a check for $400 on the spot to pay my qualifying fees to run for State Rep.”

McCollar went on to run for several positions including County Commission in 2010, City Council in 2012 and his first campaign as Mayor in 2013. Although McCollar lost every race, he was determined to serve the public and viewed each loss as moving closer to winning.

“We’ve been going door to door,” McCollar said. “We’ve been registering people to vote and educating people about the issues. Each time that we run, we get a little bit closer to winning.”

McCollar said over the next four years he continued to register people to vote and remained active in the community. In 2016, McCollar ran one of the largest ground presidential campaigns for former candidate Hillary Clinton in North Carolina. McCollar described his experience as a pivotal point in her political career.

“That experience was like me going to Harvard and learning political campaigning from the best minds,” McCollar said.

McCollar said his involvement in the Clinton campaign prepared him to campaign for mayor of Statesboro in 2017.

“What I had realized was that the campaign had become much bigger than me and it began to take on a life of its own,” McCollar said. “The thing that was the most significant to me was that nearly 60 percent of the people that when to the polls voted for change.”

First African American Mayor
McCollar said while it is humbling to be part of Statesboro’s history as the first African American Mayor, he doesn’t view himself as just a black mayor.

“I don’t think about me being a black mayor. I just see myself as just being Jonathan,” McCollar said. “I recognize that I am a black male but when it comes to this office I don’t think about it like that. I know the greater community does but I don’t think about myself like that because I feel that this is part of my destiny.”

The George-Anne staff
BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The George-Anne Staff

The smartest kid in the class looked like me.
The professor looked like me.
The president of the university looked like me. That was very helpful for me coming from a community where growing up I never saw anybody that looked like me in any form of a powerful position.”

-Mayor Jonathan McCollar

An election 10 years in the making
McCollar said the beginning his career in politics was the product of a random act of kindness. In 2008, McCollar traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to apply to run for State Representative. Upon qualifying fees to run for State Rep.”

McCollar said to this day he does not know who the man is.

“Without that moment I don’t think that I would be sitting here right now,” McCollar said.

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-Mayor Jonathan McCollar
A look at the University Police Department’s K-9 training process

BY EMMA SMITH
The George-Anne staff

Erk McCurdy, a K-9 handler of 17 years for University Police’s Statesboro campus, provided information regarding the training process for K-9 officers at Georgia Southern University. UPD is currently has two K9 officers: Bear for the Armstrong Campus and Deimos on the Statesboro campus.

Deimos joined UPD after being donated from Bulloch County Sheriff’s Department and Bear was obtained through the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office.

The process
Deimos and Bear usually train at least once a week in a different setting each time, McCurdy said. Both canines specialize in detecting explosives, so their training process is centered around sniffing out materials that could be used in them.

Explosive detection canines are common at Georgia colleges including Georgia Tech, University of Georgia and Kennesaw State University. Dogs are visual learners, so they have to see the source of the odor before they can be trained to sniff it out, McCurdy said.

“What you do is you put the odor in what’s called a training box and their toy is also in the box,” McCurdy said. “When the dog gets to the box and sniffs out the odor, the toy automatically pops out, and that’s what they’re working for.”

McCurdy said officers typically look for dogs with a high prey drive, meaning they like to chase after objects. The dogs’ training process is most effective when made into a game and less effective when they are scolded for making mistakes.

“When you do the training you always want it to be fun for [the dogs],” McCurdy said. “So you may be presenting the boxes and if you see the dog’s not sniffing, you don’t scold him. You would let him take a break and then go at it again because you always want to keep it a game to them.”

Training time
It typically takes about a year to a year and a half to fully train explosive detection canines, but it all depends on their drive, McCurdy said.

The canines are called in to do sterility sweeps for events where large crowds are expected, in which they sniff out the area for any possible hazardous materials.

You can expect to see Deimos or Bear patrolling sporting events on the Statesboro and Armstrong or any events where the governor is present.

Georgia Southern professor selected for Governor Teaching Fellow

BY BISOLA OKE
The George-Anne staff

A Georgia Southern University Professor was selected 2017 Governor’s Teaching Fellow for the academic year symposium program.

Nandi Marshall, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health professor, Ph.D., said she was honored to have been accepted into this program.

“I was and still am extremely honored to have been selected as a 2017-2018 Governor’s Teaching Fellow,” Marshall said. “Having the opportunity to learn innovative techniques for improved learning outcomes and student engagement in the classroom has been an awesome experience.”

According to a GS press release, the Governor’s Teaching Fellow Program is an outreach program for upgrading the value of instruction at Georgia’s Universities and Colleges.

The program was made official by former Georgia governor Zell Miller in 1995 for the purpose of providing Georgia’s higher education faculty with expanded opportunities for developing important teaching skills.
Features @GeorgeAnneFeats

DYLAN JOHN AND VALENCIA WARREN 2017-2018 THE GEORGE-ANNE STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

BY BLAKELEY BARTEE
The George-Anne Staff

Dylan John and Valencia Warren, the president and executive vice president respectively for the Student Government Association at Georgia Southern University, will complete their graduate studies in the spring and summer this year. The John-Warren ticket will come to a close at the end of the spring semester, making way for the 2018-2019 president and executive vice president, Jarvis Steele and Amber Monkou. “The John-Warren administration did a lot for our University. The changes that they made will be felt for many years to come and the people that they helped are countless,” Steele said in an email.

Until then, the GS community may reflect on the outgoing student administration. John and Warren were elected in 2016—a time when John and Warren were self-described underdogs. “[John] is one of the strongest student advocates I have ever met in all of my years in higher education, including my years as a student,” GS President Jaimie Hebert said. “He is a true servant leader in the very truest sense. Dylan comes into these meetings [with me] with an agenda that represents the students, not him, and it’s very clear that he is an advocate for the opinions and desires for the entire student body. He’s one of the finest examples of a servant leader that I’ve ever seen.”

I WAS ACTUALLY KICKED OFF THE TICKET BECAUSE WE WERE TOLD THAT TWO MINORITY STUDENTS, SPECIFICALLY TWO BLACK STUDENTS, Couldn’t WIN.

VALENCIA WARREN
Executive Vice President of the Student Government Association at GS

THE BEGINNING
Before John and Warren joined together to run as president and executive vice president, Warren said she ran on a different ticket altogether—until she was removed from the ticket, allegedly due to her race. She had been running as a senior logistics major with the ticket then known as “The John-Warren ticket”, but she was kicked off the ticket, allegedly due to her race. “It was the craziest experience of my life. I was shocked… That fueled me more to pursue the diversity and inclusion component of it, but also to run with a candidate who wasn’t afraid to challenge what Georgia Southern was used to.”

Warren said she was originally planning to run as a presidential candidate, but because her goals were related mostly to internal issues, like diversity and inclusion within SGA, she decided to run as executive vice president. Warren, a senior logistics major at the time, believed if she could fix the internal structure, she could change how the SGA impacted the school.

Thus, Warren needed a president. She asked John, then a senior construction management major, to join her ticket. At the time, John was participating in 19 student organizations, holding officer positions in 12 of them. He took a few weeks before he agreed to run as president alongside Warren. John and Warren both describe themselves as underdogs in the 2016 election. “As underdogs, we had to rethink things,” John said. “How do we cross this line saying two minority students may not be able to secure a win? How do you process that?”

John said he and Warren had the backing of hundreds of students during their campaign, including student organizations. He said the student support was an emotionally powerful experience. “What we ended up doing was... marketing was handled by the American Marketing Association of Georgia Southern, so we had an entire student organization backing us. Clips for all our commercials were filmed by the Film Club at Georgia Southern.”

Ultimately, John and Warren won the election with 957 votes. John described the feeling of winning the election as “unreal.” He said he had mentally prepared to lose the night before. “We didn’t sleep that night,” John said. “I did,” Warren said, laughing.

When John and Warren returned to GS for the 2016 fall semester to attend graduate school, they began their tenure as SGA president and executive vice president. “We created this powerhouse ticket, even as the underdogs, and I wouldn’t change a thing from any of those experiences, because that rejection [from the other ticket]—it was more of a delay, not a denial,” Warren said.

TRIUMPHS AND TRIBULATION
During the John-Warren administration, SGA began facilitating individual projects for senators, which increased SGA’s projects from five or six per year to 35 to 40, John said. “Typically, the president and vice president would essentially have a conversation to decide what the year’s administrative goals are... I remember talking to an administrator at my first one-on-one... and they told me, ‘Dylan, you need to decide on one or two big areas you’re going to focus on.’ I said, ‘Why can’t I focus on them all?’” John said.

Within SGA, Warren said an accomplishment was improving training for members of the organization. She said that training, along with hands-on experience through individual senator projects, led to a competitive 2017 election.

Warren also named a 2017 diversity resolution she proposed as one of her accomplishments in SGA. The proposal, which contained ten major clauses and suggestions to GS on how to better handle underrepresentation of minority groups on campus, passed the student senate unanimously.

Finally, among other accomplishments, John praised SGA’s proposal, originally suggested by the Active Minds student organization, that resulted in sexual assault hotline and suicide hotlines being printed on the back of Eagle ID cards, as well as SGA Vision 20/20, a survey in which students on several campuses ranked their concerns.

Difficulties on the job came to John and Warren in the form of late-night phone calls and learning different facets of management. “In the public face, you see us as two who are on the same page,” John said. “But if only Georgia Southern University knew how many hours of phone calls of disagreements, to come up with a consolidation of what our administration stands on, you’d be surprised. There would be so many hours.”

Warren said she is a detailed and
organized person. She said she initially had difficulty delegating tasks to other members of SGA, but there was too much work for one person to complete.

John, meanwhile, had more difficulty providing emotional support to others.

“There’s nobody who can delegate faster than Dylan John,” John said. “…I think I’ve been able to consult with Valencia in terms with the emotion-related stuff, and I think even in the SGA office they know if you are expecting an emotional-support response, don’t go to Dylan. Go to Valencia.”

CONSOLIDATING SGA

Recently, the SGA organizations on the GS and Armstrong State University campuses joined to form a consolidated SGA.

“I would actually venture to say that we’ve had the most seamless consolidation of Student Governments in the State of Georgia,” John said.

Hebert praised John’s performance during the SGA consolidation as well as ASU SGA president Nipuna Ambanpola.

“What they have done has been a critical aspect of the success of this consolidation. I’ve said it before, that the first group of people to get it, to come together in unity in this consolidation, were the students,” Hebert said. “And that doesn’t always happen first. The students aren’t always the first ones to come together. That was really a result of student leadership on our campuses.”

Ambanpola and John are both from Sri Lanka, where they attended competing high schools. John said their connection formed a foundation of trust between them as they worked to consolidate their organizations.

LIFE OUTSIDE THE SGA OFFICE

When asked what they do when they are not working, John and Warren laughed.

“We don’t have lives,” Warren said.

“I’m struggling here. I really am,” John said.

“You want to know the honest answer? I could tell you that I go to the movies with friends, and that I go bowling, but I sleep … If I can squeeze a nap in for an hour after an all-nighter, it’s great,” Warren said.

John said that he loves movies, and before he purchased a MoviePass subscription, he accumulated 100,000 points at the local AMC theater. However, he said, it has been difficult to do anything fun, and he is thankful for time he can spend with his family, friends and girlfriend.

“A lot of people in the office can attest to it—last year as an SGA president, I probably looked a lot more stressed than I am this year,” John said. “This year, I think I am a lot less stressed because of my girlfriend. At least I have someone to remind me that I have to have a life outside of SGA. I’ll be having a shower in the morning and deciding what some SGA structures need to look like.”

Warren said it is important to have people who can occasionally pull them away from SGA.

“You get to the point where it’s starting to consume you, and you’re worried about every single facet of SGA. You dream SGA. You eat, and you’re like, ‘Dang, I wonder what we have on the...
menu for the SGA banquet,” Warren said. “To have someone who can pull you back into reality … is really essential.”

WHAT’S NEXT FOR DYLAN JOHN AND VALENCIA WARREN?

John and Warren are expected to complete their Master’s degrees in the spring or summer. John will complete his Master’s degree in applied engineering, while Warren will complete her Master in business administration. After graduation, they each plan to enter their respective industries.

“I’m taking a break after graduation. I’m probably going to take a three-month sabbatical, if you will, [to] really figure out what’s next in life,” Warren said.

Warren said that after years of working, earning multiple degrees and being involved on campus, she wants to take some time to be present in the moment while deciding her next steps.

“I should probably say, I’m not going to be a bum,” Warren said with a laugh.

Though Warren hopes to move to either Washington D.C. or Denton, Texas to work for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), she is also launching her own business in May: a wedding planning company called “Exemplary Designs by Valencia.”

“The wedding planning company is completely different from my path in life… It’s been a really incredible experience and incredible journey to take a path that’s completely different from the last seven years of my life,” Warren said.

Meanwhile, John will face a period of adjustment before he begins working in the fall.

“My next step] has a huge banner across it. It’s called going from hero to zero,” John said. “I’m going to transition from being SGA president of an institution with 27,000 students to now going into industry.”

John said he hopes to join a construction company in either Georgia, Washington D.C., or Texas. Although he will no longer be a student leader at GS, he said he wants to help student leaders make the transition into the post-graduation world.

SAYING GOODBYE

As John and Warren prepare to graduate from GS, they want to leave students with the following messages.

“I want the Georgia Southern community to realize that Student Government leaders, as much as they’re leaders in our community, that they’re people too. And I want [people to know] two things: student initiative is powerful, and accountability is powerful,” John said. “And I would really, really hope that students hold student government accountable, and also share initiatives and be willing to take initiative.”

Warren wants to encourage students to speak up for what they believe in, even if they feel like they are the only people who care about a certain issue.

“We are unempowered to do anything unless the students speak up, they feel that they have that much power in their voice, so speak up, speak out, speak loud and don’t let anyone silence your voice,” Warren said.

Warren believes GS invests in the interest of the students, and said she will always contribute to the upbuilding of the institution so that students will feel empowered to also contribute to the university community.

Warren said, “I’ll miss you guys, but the fight will not stop.”

GOT AN INTERNSHIP?

We want to know about it!

1. Log on to Eagle Career Net through your my.GeorgiaSouthern account.
2. Select “Experiential” from the tool bar on the left side of the page.
3. Start an application to tell us about your internship!

Visit the Office of Career and Professional Development or email Theresa Duggar at tduggar@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.

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student organization

Renewals

LAST 2 CHANCES TO RENEW!

Every student organization must have their president & 1 additional leader attend

Friday  April 20th, 3:30 pm; Russell Union Theater
Wednesday April 25th, 6:00 pm; Russell Union Theater

*Advisors are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop

For more information, please contact the Office of Student Activities at osa@georgiasouthern.edu

I REMEMBER TALKING TO AN ADMINISTRATOR AT MY FIRST ONE-ON-ONE... AND THEY TOLD ME, ‘DYLAN, YOU NEED TO DECIDE ON ONE OR TWO BIG AREAS YOU’RE GOING TO FOCUS ON.’ I SAID, ‘WHY CAN’T I FOCUS ON THEM ALL?’"

DYLAN JOHN
President of the Student Government Association at GSU

PHOTO COURTESY OF VALENCIA WARREN
According to GSEAGLES

18.9
PPG
4.2
APG
4.1
RPG
75%
FT

TOOKIE BROWN
2017-2018 THE GEORGE-ANNE STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne Staff

With seven seconds on the clock on a Saturday night in early January, the fans in a packed Hanner Fieldhouse held their breath as a tight game was coming to an end.

But with the ball in the 5’11” junior point guard’s hands, the fans, coaches and players had no reason to worry. He threw the ball up and a swish sent everyone in Hanner into a celebratory frenzy.

“I knew it was going in,” Tookie Brown said.

From High School to College
This shot almost never happened.

In fact, Tookie Brown’s career with the Eagles almost never happened.

In Jan. 2014, as a high school junior at Morgan County High School, Brown committed to SEC school Mississippi State and later signed a National Letter of intent that November.

The guard continued to shine his senior year earning the GHSA 3-A Player of the Year. Then on April 7, 2015, Brown decommitted from the Bulldogs and reopened his recruitment.

Georgia Southern was one of the only schools that continued to pursue Tookie.

Head coach Mark Byington and the rest of the coaching staff were one of the main reasons why Brown committed to GS.

“[Byington] and the coaching staff stuck with me when I decommitted from Mississippi State by always calling me and talking to me,” Brown said.

Later on in 2015, Tookie put up 20 points in Cameron Indoor against the number seven Duke Blue Devils in his fifth true road game as an Eagle.

Scoring 20 points became the norm for Brown, who has gone on to embody the role of being the best player for the Eagles the past two years.

After having such a great sophomore season, it wasn’t easy to have another fantastic season Byington said. The team still had expectations for Brown’s junior year.

“We wanted him to come out and compete and he improved which wasn’t easy to do,” Byington said.

2017-18 Eagles Basketball season
For Tookie, this season was about improving, having fun and winning games. And the junior did all three.

“If they double team me, I’m trying to find my teammates first,” Brown said. “We had shooters all over. I trust our guys. I try to get to my spot, so they can knock down their shots.”

Tookie’s trust and leadership was evident on the court, but more importantly off the court for Byington.

“He does what he’s supposed to do. He’s idolized by kids and does a great job handling that responsibility,” Byington said. “The challenge for me sometimes is how to get on him and motivate a guy that really does nothing wrong.”

These off-the-court intangibles combined with the talent when he’s on the court has earned Tookie Brown one of the 2017-2018 The George-Anne Sports People of the Year awards.

Brown led the team in scoring and assists. He’s idolized by kids and does a great job handling that responsibility.

“[Tookie] is one of the most competitive guys I’ve been around since I’ve been coaching,” Byington said. “His sense in the game of not being scared of big moments is one thing that is helpful for him.”

This season may have been the last season in the blue and white for Tookie Brown with him declaring for the draft back in March. If he has played his last game in Hanner Fieldhouse, Brown will miss the fans the most.

“They are everything to Georgia Southern,” Brown said. “They’re all just one big family.”

TOOKIE BROWN
2017-2018 The George-Anne Student-Athlete of the Year.
Junior guard Tookie Brown has been named The George-Anne 2017-2018 Student-Athlete of the Year.

18.9
PPG
4.2
APG
4.1
RPG
75%
FT

According to GSEAGLES

MARK BYINGTON
GS Basketball Coach

Scoring 20 points became the norm for Brown, who has gone on to embody the role of being the best player for the Eagles the past two years.

For Tookie, this season was about improving, having fun and winning games. And the junior did all three.

“If you win on the road, the bus ride or plane ride home is sweet,” Brown said. "I think my favorite moment was just getting the win and having fun with the guys.”

There were a lot of wins to choose from this season from the season opener win over ACC school Wake Forest to the last second buzzer beater over Little Rock to the incredible Georgia State win at home in front of a sold out Hanner Fieldhouse.

No surprise, the State game was Tookie’s favorite especially after having to sit out the first game in Atlanta.

“It was good for me to see what they can do and what my team can do without me,” Brown said. “Once Georgia State got here, I was well locked in and mentally prepared.”

Even in games like the one against GS, where teams would throw their best defender at Tookie sometimes even double teaming him, Brown was still able to lead the team in scoring and assists.

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According to GSEAGLES
BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

With a whopping 675 Eagle career kills, 70 blocks, .275 attack percentage and 138 digs, Lauren Reichard has made a huge impact and impression on the Georgia Southern volleyball team.

The 6-foot middle has made quite the name for herself at GS through team leadership, her vast skill set and many awards she has received over the years highlighted by being named to the first-team All-Sun Belt.

Reichard is just the seventh female Eagle to be named to first team All-Sun Belt and the first since Emily Snider, who was named to the first team All-Sun Belt team for softball.

"First team last year was a big accomplishment," Reichard said. "Definitely didn’t see it coming, but it was really cool when I found out."

In the 2017 season, Reichard led the Sun Belt in hitting percentage with .342 and was second in the conference with 31 blocks, averaging 1.18 per set. The junior was also a successful server, serving 14 aces in the 2017 season. Along with that she was team leader with 266 kills with 2.53 kills per set.

Reichard started to make an impression on the Eagles as soon as she started playing her freshman year. Her first year, she started all 26 matches she played in, and logged 143 kills, averaging 1.55 kills per set.

Then in her sophomore year in 2016 she started in all 33 matches and played 125 sets resulting in adding 266 kills and 27 blocks for the Eagles.

"I knew I could compete here and I really wanted to be a part of this family."

LAUREN REICHARD
GS Volleyball Player

Head Coach Dustin Wood discussed Reichard’s growth in her time at GS.

"She’s grown as a player," Wood said. "She’s grown as a leader and a person… Each year she’s gotten better.”

Reichard is a rising senior from Wrightsville, Pennsylvania and as one could tell, Pennsylvania isn’t a short distance away, but Wood had some personal connections to Lauren when it came to recruiting.

“She’s from my hometown. Just having friends and family in the area, we knew about her early,” Wood said. "We recruited very heavily, and she fell in love with Georgia Southern.”

Reichard was able recollect her own special recruiting experience with GS.

"I fell in love with the team immediately. It’s a great family atmosphere, the level of play here is really high,” Reichard said. “I knew I could compete here and I really wanted to be a part of this family.”

Reichard is more than just a statistics builder though. The senior has stepped into a role of leadership and has pushed for the Eagles to become better as a whole.

"On the court she’s the vocal team leader,” Coach Wood said. "She competes at everything, which is a big thing."

Once Reichard joined Eagle nation she knew she made the right choice.

"[I] couldn’t ask for better relationships with my teammates and my coaches,” Reichard said. "It’s very open, we’re all a big family."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GS ATHLETICS
The 2018 Blue and White spring football game was one of the most anticipated spring games in a while for Georgia Southern.

With about 1000 fans in attendance, the Blue team (defense) was victorious over the White team (offense) with a score of 47-38.

The three big takeaways from the afternoon were the emergence of the young run game, the strength of the defensive line and the gap of development between Shai Werts and the other quarterbacks.

YOUNG RUNNING BACKS

With Monteo Garrett and Wesley Fields sitting out for the day with injury and L.A. Ramby graduating, several redshirt underclassmen had the opportunity to take over. Jared Daniels led the Eagles in yards with 72 rushing yards on 12 attempts and one touchdown and made it look easy.

Daniels was redshirted this past season, but had no problem finding the holes in the offensive line Saturday. Another young redshirt was Eric Montgomery who had 48 yards and one touchdown on just four attempts. Montgomery only touched the ball for times, but made the most of his attempts in the first “ball” turning a little room into big plays.

While the Eagles should have Garrett and Fields back come Sept. 1, it was nice to see solid production from the inexperienced backfield.

IMPROVED DEFENSIVE LINE

Last season, the GS defense only picked up 22 sacks and in Saturday’s game the defense was incredibly quick throughout spring practices. “Raymond Johnson is a guy that can be a dude for us in the fall,” head coach Chad Lunsford said.

If the defensive line can stay quick and get in the backfield like they did Saturday, then fans can expect more than just 22 sacks in a 12 game season.

KING OF THE QUARTERBACKS

The final big thing in the spring game can be taken two different ways and that was how much better Shai Werts is than the other three quarterbacks.

Last season, Werts gave fans reasons to doubt, especially after four seasons with Kevin Ellison and Favian Upshaw. Throughout spring, Werts has shown signs of improvement and Saturday he didn’t hold anything back.

“You never want to get complacent,” Werts said. “I’m always looking to get better.”

He was accurate in his throws even if his 50 percent day did not show that. "If his 50 percent day did not show that whatsoever, Jaalon Frazier was so timid and the others didn't compare or Werts is decent and the others are really bad. We’ll know more come Sept. 1.

WES IS BEST

The MVP of the spring game was probably Wes Kennedy III who had eight receptions for 66 yards and returned punts for the Eagles. Kennedy was just a freshman this past season, but has already stepped into a leadership position.

“Myles (Campbell) taught me a lot so just learning from him and having to step up and become a leader,” Kennedy said.

“Just have to play with speed and be focused.”

WSU continued the momentum in the second inning with a Jason Swan RBI groundout to give Golden his first run of the night. “I thought we swung the bats well in the early innings,” head coach Rodney Hennon said. “We ran the bases well and were aggressive on the basepaths.”

Getting on base wasn’t difficult for the hometeam who got on base 12 times. Corley was hit by one pitch and Golden was hit by two pitches, all three of them thrown by Brian Rourke.

“They’ve never faced that guy, he just went inside on me on both sliders,” Golden said, smiling. “I just stood in there, knew it was gonna hurt for a second and got on first base.”

Tuesday night’s win was the Eagles’ first midweek win since April 3 against The Citadel.

Now at 17-19, GS will stay home as they host UT-Arlington in an important Sun Belt series this weekend. First pitch Friday night is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.
The George-Anne Crossword

Across
1 Torture device
5 Untrue
10 Holy man
14 Twirled
15 Live
16 Straddling
17 Workbench attachment
18 Heavenly host?
19 Egg container
20 Mill output
22 Slip in a pot
23 Analyze syntactically
24 Endorse
26 Skier's transport
28 Low-fat meat
31 Dress (up)
32 "... do you do?"
33 Hit on the head
36 Come to birth
38 Sweater material
40 Province town
42 Nagana carrier
45 Cheater
47 Always, in verse
48 Likewise
50 Provincial town match
51 Ashtoe
52 Saltless cat
53 Entire's cry
55 Loathe
56 Summer cooler
56 Buckingham
64 Switch's partner
65 Violent
67 Nasty
68 "Cast Away" setting
69 Boxing venue

Down
6 Stallion's note
7 Blow the whistle
8 Milk dispenser
9 Time for egg nog
10 Like some eclipses
11 Copycat
12 Truck growth
13 Mandolin
21 Ceremony
22 Pan, e.g.
27 Fancy neckwear
28 Creme de la creme
29 Parent's house
30 Anesthetized
31 Smiles out
32 Cantervered
33 Window
34 Countess's
35 Dowds
36 Trunk growth
37 Musical symbol
38 Edwardian
39 Jewel
40 A billion years
41 Ashtoe ruler
42 Nagana carrier
43 Military award
44 A billion years
45 Fifth note of any musical scale
46 Sensory input
47 Shoe or school
48 Eyetooth
49 "Psyche" setting
50 Scrumptious
51 Somewhat
52 Pedestal
53 Somewhat
54 Scrumptious
55 Eyetooth
56 Somewhat
57 Wedging spot
58 Cut down
59 Swans
60 Countess's
61 Husband
62 Countess's husband
63 Snick's partner
64 Ancient cross
65 Locomotive
66 Equipment follower

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