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Events Around Campus

April

College Night Bingo: Join UPB for a night filled with fun, games, and prizes. There will be free food while supplies last. This is a student only event, so please bring your Eagle ID. Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Russell Union Ballroom

Delta Phi Hop: Please join the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon for our third annual Delta Phi Hop, an all-you-can-eat pancake dinner to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Tickets are $5. Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Delta Phi Epsilon House: 110 Olympic Boulevard

UPB Movie - Bumble Bee: Join UPB for a feature presentation of Bumblebee. Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m. Sweetheart Circle

International Prom: The International Club invites all to enjoy a night of internationally themed music and food at the first ever International Prom. It is a semi-formal event but we encourage anyone to come in their traditional dress. Tickets will be $10 pre-sale and $15 at the door. Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nessmith Lane Conference Center

#Petsboro

Shuri
Owner: Chase Taylor, sophomore mechanical engineering major

Want you and your pet to be featured next time? Post your photo on Twitter with the name of your pet and a little bit about you (name, year, and major). Make sure you include #petsboro and tag @SeenAtSouthern!

Inspector Reflector

A monthly report of health inspection scores for Statesboro restaurants and food service establishments.

Highest Scores:
- Nevils Elementary School – 99
- Sallie Zetterower Elementary School – 99
- The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant – 97
- Mill Creek Elementary School – 97
- William James Jr High School – 97
- Julia P Bryant Elementary School – 96
- Primos Italian Pizza Kitchen – 95
- Wendy’s (Fair Road) – 95
- Statesboro High School Head Start – 94
- Zaxby’s (Fair Road) – 93
- High Hope Service Center – 93

Lowest Scores:
- Roundabout Cafe – 92
- Statesboro High School – 91

Food safety and restaurant cleanliness are part of what makes dining out so enjoyable. Patrons walk into restaurants trusting that the local health department has thoroughly inspected the property for violations, a process that ensures customers’ safety and enhances their overall dining experience.

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Food safety and restaurant cleanliness are part of what makes dining out so enjoyable. Patrons walk into restaurants trusting that the local health department has thoroughly inspected the property for violations, a process that ensures customers’ safety and enhances their overall dining experience.
#SeenAtSouthern

Our photographers went out on campus and snapped some photos depicting life at Georgia Southern. Come back every week or follow our Twitter, @GA_Visuals, to see if you have been spotted!

HOLI FESTIVAL

Put on by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Georgia Southern celebrated the Holi Festival of Colors, where students got to commemorate the beginning of spring and learn more about Indian culture.

Emily Curry, Aurian Baptiste, Rebecca Perro, Hanna Williams, and Eve Phelps pose in the aftermath of the festival.

Eman Woods and Alexis Hampton stay clean despite the air being filled with colors.

Dan Tran, Nick Holmes and Catherine Bradley pose before the festival begins, ready to get colorful.
Q&A with President Kyle Marrero

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER AND McCLAIN BAXLEY
@GeorgeAnneNews

The George-Anne met with Georgia Southern University’s new president Kyle Marrero on Wednesday to talk about topics facing all three of the university’s campuses.

Among the topics discussed were the impacts of GS’ budget redirection plan, the current status of the spring 2019 commencement ceremony and increasing enrollment for GS.

Q: From the redirection are there going to be any possible negative impacts like any loss of faculty or programs or anything like that on the GS campuses?

A: “First and foremost the budget in terms of July 1 and it’s due May 3 to the board of regents. We find our allocation out in terms of the legislation process and then all the way to the board meeting on the 16th and 17th that we are hosting, as you know, at the Armstrong Campus in Savannah.

In essence we have a declined earned revenue and so by state law we have to balance our budget by July 1, which we will do and that means that we have to find where we will be able to make those redirections or reductions. What we’re doing is finding areas where we can find for us principally vacant positions now that aren’t critical that we can isolate or locate and ensure that we can save those dollars and make our budget in essence balanced as of July 1.

So, that process began as early as fall when they knew enrollment had declined and really if you look at the last four to five years from 2012 you can see a pattern. A little bit of an uptick and then particularly the last three years understandably. Now as we build a direction, a vision and a unification of what the new Georgia Southern is, we’re already seeing a trend forward to balance that enrollment decline. Fall is already looking good, thankfully.

But, we have a commencement on July 1 and for that, as new president starting April 1 my first 90 days are occupied with ensuring our budget is balanced so I want to be transparent about that. That’s going to be a focus because that’s going to be a part of the operational essentials of this institution to move forward.

Our goal, July 1, is to do this with vacant positions. That’s our goal. To have that impact out of the gate to where it isn’t a person that’s sitting in a job right now. That still is hard because that means that searches were held or stopped, but what we’ve done is assess those critical areas of curriculum delivery.

In other words, our promise to the students and to those programs, is that there will be, if needed, a faculty member there to deliver courses so that students and staff positions that are currently open to be able to meet our deficit goals and our budget for July 1.”

Q: Have you had a chance to look at the legislation or talk to SGA President Jarvis Steele about commencement and the joint resolution from Armstrong and Statesboro SGA?

A: “I met with Jarvis and Shawn [Tuesday] and then I meet with Spencer [SGA Armstrong campus vice-president] [Wednesday]. Look, it’s April 3. We’re doing commencement as it’s been planned. They have worked hard administratively to come up with an ideal time where the competitive nature and in essence, the demographic drop of high school graduates over the next four years is we’re vying for those same students that everyone else is.

You need a strategic institutional plan that says who and what we’re going to be in five years and how we’re going to measure that along the way. Then you need a strategic enrollment plan that goes after the recruitment strategies of all constituencies and types of students. Adult, military first time in college students, dual enrollment, graduate students, that has a targeted plan for each of those and then you need to fund that and brand that with the message and story to drive those enrollment numbers that then will feed into that enrollment projection and the growth of the institution being formed by the strategic plan.

The first 90 days are the strategic enrollment plan and then, quick on its heels, the new branding and marketing campaign to drive enrollment and tell the story not just in this region but the entire southeast region of the United States to come to Georgia Southern.”

“LOOK, IT’S APRIL 3. WE’RE DOING COMMENCEMENT AS IT’S BEEN PLANNED.”

KYLE MARRERO
University President

BY KAYLA HILL

What is the brand of Georgia Southern?

A: “What is the brand of Georgia Southern? Eagle Nation. What we need is not just a tagline but something that’s meaningful that aligns, that can tell that story in an elevator that 15, 20, 30 seconds of who we are, what we are.

And then, we actually need to go out and market that by media and tell the story of Georgia Southern. We’re at a time where the competitive nature and in essence, the demographic drop of high school graduates over the next four years is we’re vying for those same students that everyone else is.

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There might be parts of it that we really like and want to keep. And there may be things that is the continuous ideology that we want to improve upon.

We’ll have student representation to honor—particularly from the resolution. That was an important part of the resolution that really caught my eye. To make sure we have student input and that we move forward what is feasible, what is responsible and what has the environment that honors the past and forges Eagle Nation, one Georgia Southern in its new traditions.”

Q: What do you feel is going to be one of the biggest challenges when working on increasing the enrollment for GS?

A: “What is the brand of Georgia Southern? Eagle Nation. What we need is not just a tagline but something that’s meaningful that aligns, that can tell that story in an elevator that 15, 20, 30 seconds of who we are, what we are.

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**BANKING ON DONATIONS**

Statesboro Food Bank partners with Center for Sustainability to collect plastic bags for donations

**BY MADELINE BRANCH**

If you are willing to lend a helping hand, the Statesboro Food Bank is collecting plastic bags to package donated food items. The organization has partnered with the Center for Sustainability to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic bags. The purpose of the partnership between both organizations is to help feed those in need in Bulloch County.

“We take donations any time,” Sharon Kalango, the community liaison for the Statesboro Food Bank said. Any donations given will be donated to help feed those in need in Bulloch County. Some staple items that the food bank is asking for at the moment are plastic bags, cereal, dry-fruit, powdered milk, ramen noodles and funding to help run the building.

“Right now, I wouldn’t want to put one above the other, but right now we are trying to stay afloat and money donations are extremely helpful,” Kalango said. The Statesboro Food Bank is a 501c3 non-profit organization that does not receive any money from the government. The food bank relies on the support of others including Walmart, Bi-Lo and local churches.

Items can be dropped off at the Office of Leadership and Engagement room 1056 in the Russell Union Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They can be brought items directly to the Statesboro Food Bank from 10:30 a.m. 4 p.m., located at 400 Donnie Simmons Way in the old Julia P Elementary school building.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the food bank should contact Kalango at statesborofoodbankcl@gmail.com.

**GROCERY TALK**

Georgia Southern students react to Statesboro Publix plans

**BY ANTHONY BELINFANTE**

Georgia Southern University students have begun to show excitement after it was announced that Publix is returning to the Statesboro area.

Darin Van Tassell, owner of Tormenta FC, confirmed on March 27 that Statesboro is getting a new Publix. 20 years after the grocery store closed its doors. The new store will be located on the 225-acre development surrounding Tormenta FC’s soccer stadium and The Clubhouse.

“I’m really excited for it,” junior psychology major Bryce Lesher said. “And I think it will be nice to have another grocery store that’s not as crowded as Walmart.” Anthony Olivo, freshman recreation major, was interested in the idea of a new grocery store in Statesboro, but was more interested in its location.

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**MILITARY APPRECIATION**

Event to celebrate military service to be held on April 26

**BY NATHAN WEAVER**

A military appreciation day event has been scheduled to be held on Georgia Southern University’s Statesboro campus on April 26.

Student Government Association Vice President Dantrell Mayweather of Military acknowledged plans for the event at an SGA meeting March 27. The inspiration for the event came from the Armstrong campus, where a military appreciation day has been held for a number of years.

Mayweather met with his counterpart, VP Anand Rao of the Armstrong SGA, and was inspired by her idea. “In an effort to make the consolidation smoother, I met with my counterpart [on the Armstrong campus],” Mayweather said. “They do a military appreciation day every year, April 26.”

Mayweather’s plans for the event include a push-up and sit-up contest with servicemen, a barbecue in the middle of the day at Russell Union and a signable poster. Students will be invited to share kind thoughts on veterans and military service on the poster, which will later be hung up in the community.

For more details concerning the event contact Mayweather at dm06490@georgiasouthern.edu.

**Students on Georgia Southern’s Statesboro campus reacted to the announcement of a Publix grocery store being built in Statesboro. From left to right: Anthony Olivo, Stephanie Riddle, Brianna Lingerfelt.**

**ANTHONY BELINFANTE/staff**

**LAUREN SABA/staff**

“'It depends if it’s closer or around Walmart whether I will go there or not,’ Olivo said. ‘But I think it will be good.’”

Stephanie Riddle, junior outdoor recreation major, is hoping Publix will offer better produce options than other grocery stores in Statesboro.

“I think that if their produce is better, it will definitely go,” Riddle said. “When I go to the store, the only thing I buy is produce, usually, and the options here aren’t great.”

Brianna Lingerfelt, junior outdoor recreation major, believes another grocery is just what Statesboro needs.

“I think it will be very beneficial because we only have Walmart, and everybody in Statesboro goes there, like college kids and families,” Lingerfelt said. “So I think it will be beneficial to separate that.

The goal is for the new development to be completed by next year, but Van Tassell is not certain if this is possible yet.
A NEW PRESIDENTIAL ERA
Georgia Southern welcomes Kyle Marrero on his first day as president

The new president was greeted by a group of faculty and students who waited in the brisk 47-degree weather for him to arrive.

“I think he’s going to be a wonderful leader for Georgia Southern and he has a lot of good ideas and experience to help the university moving forward and help us achieve our strategic goals,” Ken Cassiol, associate vice president for student engagement, said.

Marrero arrived at GS with his family at 8:30 a.m. Monday at the Marvin Pittman Administration Building.

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A LATE NIGHT SWIM
Man arrested after driving into lake on Georgia Southern campus

A man was arrested after driving into the lake in front of the Georgia Southern Nursing Building Tuesday night on accounts of driving under the influence and failure to stop at a stop sign.

According to a Bulloch County police report, Shannon Shepherd of Savannah drove his Dodge Charger northbound on Akins Blvd. and went through the intersecting stop sign at Forest Drive.

Shepard’s car went through a stop sign and was submerged into the water, per witnesses.

“Vehicle #1 traveled on the shoulder for approximately 59 feet before entering a pond,” the police report states. “Vehicle #1 eventually came to an uncontrolled rest, completely submerged.”

One of the witnesses was sophomore marketing major Rosie Dudacek who was on her way home from work with a coworker.

“We noticed he wasn’t slowing down for that stop sign right there, so we slowed down to watch him,” Dudacek said. “He just ended up going straight into the pond.”

Dudacek explained that there was another car with two women that stopped at the scene after nearly being hit by Shepard. The four witnesses urged the driver to evacuate the car.

“The car just immediately sunk,” Dudacek said. “We [told] him to roll down the window and he finally did. He jumped out of the car through the window.”

Videos of the car heading into the lake went viral on various Twitter accounts.

Johanna Workman awarded Georgia Southern’s 2019 Black Heritage Award

The 2019 Black Heritage Award was awarded to Johanna Workman, licensed psychologist and Associate Director/ Clinical Services Director of GS’ counseling center, received the 2019 Black Heritage Award.

BY SARAH SMITH
The George-Anne contributor

The Black Heritage Award honors a staff member who has gone above and beyond to mentor, guide and serve all students, especially those of the African-American population.

Workman earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia, where she majored in sociology. She then earned her Doctor of Psychology in clinical psychology from Alliant International University in San Diego, California.
Why it’s important to vote for your Student Government representatives

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The George-Anne Staff

In his 1961 inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy spoke the famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

This historic phrase could be applied to any situation in life but I think as Student Government Association election season roles around, we as students at Georgia Southern University, should think of the phrase this way: “Ask not what your Student Government can do for you, ask what you can do for your Student Government.”

I don’t say this to mean that we as students should expect less from our elected representatives but that we as students need to take every chance we can to be involved and have a voice in our SGA.

One of the greatest chances we get to do this is to vote in our SGA representatives. However, last year’s election did not seem to get a majority of the GS student vote. In last year’s election, only 3,083 out of the 24,971 students enrolled on all three of GS’ campuses voted. That’s 12.4% of students voting for candidates that will represent 100% of students on all three campuses.

This week, SGA candidates will be campaigning and debating for your vote for positions and if elected they will hold the responsibility of representing students in the upcoming year. For instance, the SGA president is the official representative of the student body for all three campuses. Among other things, the president serves as our collective voice to university officials.

Student senators also represent us at weekly SGA meetings to speak on questions and concerns held by students on every campus. This year’s SGA election, I challenge all GS students to not just vote but to look into your candidates. Read what they stand for and what their goals are. Visit GS’ SGA website to view the job requirements for each of your candidates and make an informed decision on who can fulfill those duties.

If you have more questions, every one of these candidates are GS students with GS emails. Send them your questions because you as a voter and GS student are entitled to know your candidate.

The bottom line is to vote. Vote for the best candidate. Vote for the future of the GS campus. Vote so that you as a student can have a voice.

HOW TO VOTE FOR SGA

CHECK YOUR GEORGIA SOUTHERN EMAIL ON APRIL 8 TO FIND THE LINK FOR THE BALLOTS.

WHEN TO VOTE

APRIL 8 - APRIL 10
BY NATHAN WEAVER
The George-Anne staff

With election season for Georgia Southern University’s Student Government Association kicking off this week, the three students running to be GSU’s new SGA president have been sharing their ideas, positions and proposals with The George-Anne.

Juwan Smith, junior civil engineering major and current SGA Executive Assistant, shared his vision for his campaign and, if elected, his presidency.

“The idea behind my campaign is Family Matters,” Smith said. “Family Matters is an American television sitcom revolving around the Winslow family and Steve Urkel. Just like the hit TV show Georgia Southern University was consolidated seems like overnight and was expanded from one campus to three. We have had our fair share of ups and downs along this journey and trust me we will have many more. While the combination of three different campuses with various values and traditions hasn’t been easy, we must understand families fight and disagree and that’s ok. It is my goal of becoming your next Student Government President to represent the voices of all students regardless of physical locations.”

“See, being a part of a family means you are a part of something wonderful and will love and be loved for the rest of your life,” Smith said. “Not every family is perfect but at the end of the day, they are one. Just like a family, we don’t get to choose who is and who isn’t a part of our family but we must adapt and love each other just the same. Little over a year ago we all were added to a unique but beautiful family. Consolidation might not have been what you asked for but it was what we were blessed with. As Student Government President I will tackle issues like consolidation, diversity, and inclusion, and campus safety to name a few. My goal of Student Government President is first identifying our WHY within Student Government Association. Our WHY is one of the most important steps in being able to bring about change for students. We must discover why we want to be a part of this family I previously talked about. Once we have developed our WHY we set forth a Mission. This Mission will be cultivated from student concerns from all three campus identifying what we can do as the Student Government Association to make sure students feel a part of this beautiful family. Our Mission Statement for the year will be used to tackle issues mentioned by the students to produce results for the university.”

“The last step of the plan is to Execute,” Smith said. “Execution may seem like the easiest step but we must be able to adjust and adapt so we can carry out the goals in our mission. I should be elected to be the next Student Government Association President because of my previous leadership experience and my heart to serve the students. I believe in order to be a great leader you must first have the heart to serve to make sacrifices and take criticism to grow. With being a part of Student Government for the past two years I have had the honor to serve on committees and executive board. I had the opportunity to watch great leaders before me and I believe it’s my turn to serve the students in this capacity. I have the passion to make the sacrifices needed to bridge all three campuses to make one family. I will create intentional meeting spaces for all campus to come together and discuss concerns on all three campuses. It is my hope to show each student that Family does Matter!”

Zean Lopez, SGA Senator for the College of Engineering and Computing, also shared his platform as a candidate and goals as president with The George-Anne.

“The idea, or I should say platform, of my campaign and presidency is on Renewed Relationships and Visible Progress,” Lopez said. “Firstly, this platform takes on the issues of miscommunication between campuses, administrations, students, organizations, etc. It is because of these miscommunications that lead to distrust, misinterpretations and disassociation between people. Secondly, I believe students and administration are more willing to place their trust on an association that produces visible results. Hence, as a president I will advocate for legislation drafted by your senators to facilitate student concerns, through the highest level of administrators. My years of leadership have distinguished me from my competitors which include Johnathan McCollar before and after his election. My endeavors have been marked with charisma, dedication, and passion. I feel that I should be elected because as your President or not, I will continue to serve the students to best of my abilities because that is what this institution deserves.”

Keyshawn Housey, SGA Senator At Large and the third candidate for the SGA presidency for the 2019-2020 academic year, also described his vision for student government next year and why students ought to vote for him.

“We ARE SOUTHERN,” Housey said. “In this campaign, I want to promote the ideals of Inclusion, Advocacy, and Stability for all three campuses, because whether you go to the campus in Statesboro, Savannah or Hinesville the role of the SGA President is the same, to facilitate student concerns, through legislation drafted by your senators to the highest level of administrators. My years of leadership have distinguished me from my competitors which include authoring legislation on diversity and working with Statesboro Mayor Johnathan McCollar before and after his election. My endeavors have been marked with charisma, dedication, and passion. I feel that I should be elected because as your President or not, I will continue to serve the students to best of my abilities because that is what this institution deserves.”

To contact the features editor, email gaartsandent@gatewaysouthern.edu

Page designed by Kayla Hill

Student government candidates discuss their platforms

Juwan Smith, Executive Assistant and candidate for SGA president.

Zean Lopez, College of Engineering and Computing Senator and candidate for SGA president.

Keyshawn Housey, Senator-at-large and candidate for SGA president.
STUDENT GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES

Debate between Student Government presidential candidates held on Statesboro campus

BY NATHAN WEAVER
The George-Anne/staff

A debate between the three candidates for president of Georgia Southern University's Student Government Association for the 2019-2020 academic year was held on Wednesday. The candidates Zean Lopez, Juwan Smith and Keyshawn Housey initially debated a few days before on Monday in Savannah at the GS Armstrong campus.

Wednesday's debate on the Statesboro campus took place shortly after the week's usual SGA meeting and covered a range of issues from university consolidation to allegations leveled at candidate Lopez of making unwanted advances toward female SGA senators. Smith, Lopez and Housey were asked a series of questions, first by a moderator and later by students in the gallery.

In the initial portion of the debate prepared questions concerning SGA policy and proposals to tackle various student issues were asked and each candidate had the opportunity to respond within a limited period of time. Student concerns about commencement changes, SGA representation on the Liberty campus and continued support for military affairs were among the most discussed issues during this segment. Later, students in the gallery had the opportunity to pose questions to all three candidates both together and individually.

For more information on the debate and the candidates' responses, visit thegeorgeanne.com

Elisabeth Malloy, junior political science major, asks candidate Lopez how he plans to hold his weight against recent allegations of him making unwelcome advances at female SGA senators.

Members of the gallery line up to ask the three candidate about their plans as SGA president.

Keyshawn Housey (left) and Juwan Smith (right) shake hands after the SGA presidential debate.

State designed by Khiyah Griffin and Rebecca Hooper

Page designed by Khiyah Griffin and Rebecca Hooper To contact the features editor, email gaartsandt@georgiasouthern.edu
What are students looking for?
We asked students to respond.
ABOVE: Football head coach Chad Lunsford poses with members of the GS football and basketball teams before the mile walk.

Members of the Georgia Southern University community including Head Football Coach Chad Lunsford and Ken Glassot, associate vice president of student engagement donned high heels as part of the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes march. The march is held annually to bring awareness to rape, sexual assault and gender violence.

Kalil Crowder, computer science major, signs in to walk the mile in heels Tuesday.

Payne Van Tassell and Rashad Byrd pose with their red high heels in the ballroom before the walk.

Kalil Crowder, computer science major, signs in to walk the mile in heels Tuesday.
FROM INFELD TO OUTFELD

New to the outfield, Shelby Wilson remains as solid as she’s ever been for the Eagles

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The Georgia-Anne Staff

Shelby Wilson, a junior outfielder from Clyo, Georgia, has been making waves as a consistent hitter on the Georgia Southern softball team.

Along with Logan Harrell, she is a leader on the plate. Wilson has accumulated a .395 hitting average, seven home runs and 34 hits so far this season.

“This is my first year playing outfield,” Wilson said. “When I make a mistake I try to keep my head up, so they know if I make a mistake it’s fine and you’ll get another chance. That’s where I try to be the biggest leader being a leader at the plate, when people do good and get on base I want to hit them in.”

She has remained solid on defense, even after head coach Kim Dean changed her position for the first half of her collegiate career.

“This is my first year playing outfield,” Wilson said. “I’ve been playing softball for a very long time and this is the first year I’m out there.”

She has had a highly decorated high school career, complete with three All-State selections, the 2014 Region 3-AAAAA Co-Player of the Year title, 2015 Region 3-AAAAA Player of the Year title, 2014 Savannah Best of Preps Player of the Year title and she led her alma mater to the region title in 2012.

She was named the Wendy’s High School Heisman at her school, while being a part of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

Wilson has been continuing her academic excellence here at GS. She has made the Sun Belt Conference Academic Commissioner’s List both years she’s been here. As an exercise science major, she plans to be a high school science teacher in the future, while coaching softball.

“Grades are very important to me,” Wilson said. “I set the bar high, probably higher than I do in softball, for myself for my grades. Just taking the time and using the things that we’re given like the Student Resource Center in Cone is important.”

She has high hopes for the rest of the season, especially with the help of Ally Claytor, a graduate student serving as team’s sports psychologist. The team, currently 16-18 and 3-9 in the conference, has a tough set of games coming up with Louisiana.

“Ally has helped me so much. I think with that mental mindset and really accepting the adversity and not shying away from it,” Wilson said. “We’ve lost a few games that we probably shouldn’t have lost, we could’ve done better.”

Wilson credits her success to God, which can be heard through her walk up song, “Unstoppable God” by Elevation Worship. She thinks of the song as a reminder that she wouldn’t be where she is today without God’s guidance.

Now that half of the season is over, she is looking forward to picking up conference play and ultimately making it to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

“I think we’ve been met with some adversity but that’s what the best teams do is overcome the adversity,” Wilson said. “I still think that we set the future and we set if we go to conference or not.”

Shelby Wilson prides herself on trying to remain positive as a student athlete. As a fierce competitor on and off the field, she uses the following quote as her mantra:

“It’s a game of failure, so when you fail, go up there next time and forget about the last one.”

FRESH PITCHER

Freshman pitcher Ashleigh Morton finding success while adjusting to the pace of being a collegiate athlete

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The Georgia-Anne Staff

Freshman pitcher Ashleigh Morton has been using her first season at Georgia Southern to learn and grow as a student athlete on a team of fiercely supportive teammates.

Morton attended Tattnall Square Academy in Macon, Georgia. During her high school career, she was named the 7-A Pitcher of the Year, GHSA Single A State Runner Up, two First Team All-Region titles and First and Second team All-State honors. She was a three-sport athlete, also competing in tennis and cheerleading.

In her time here at GS, she has pitched in over a dozen games. She pitched one season long five innings against Siena College at the beginning of March, and threw a career high six strikeouts against Mercer University. She has accumulated 17 strikeouts with eight wins this season.

In arguably one of the hardest games of the season against a nationally ranked University of Georgia team, Morton learned a lesson of perseverance and staying mentally strong. GS was defeated 5-1, but the team stayed optimistic and smart during the game.

“I learned that no matter who the team is we can still compete,” Morton said. “We stayed in the game.”

Making the transition from high school to college is difficult for many students, but it can be especially difficult for student athletes. The softball team practices almost everyday, with one off day. The rigor of the sport can be physically exhausting, but Morton has learned to take things one day at a time.

“In high school, I just pitched at games. We never pitched at practice,” Morton said. “Coming here, we pitch everyday. That’s kind of hard to get used to because you’re really sore at first. But, once you start getting used to it, it’s fine.”

Morton, like fellow freshman pitcher Jess Mazur, looks up to sophomore Rylee Waldrep to show her the ropes. Waldrep seems to be in first rotation for GS, and has accumulated 33 strikeouts this season.

Playing as a new pitcher at this level can be frustrating at times, but Morton wants to remain positive with herself and her teammates because she is still in the learning process.

“[Compared to high school], the game is a lot faster,” Morton said. “If you miss a pitch, the girl is gonna take advantage of that. I’m not a strikeout pitcher. So I’m not gonna go try to strike somebody out, but get them to hit a ground ball.”

Looking forward to the rest of the season, she hopes to make the seniors proud. GS is currently 3-9 in the conference with about a month left of play.
FORMALLY WELCOMED

New women's basketball head coach Anita Howard formally welcomed to Georgia Southern in press conference

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne Staff

Newly announced Georgia Southern women’s basketball Head Coach Anita Howard greeted Eagle Nation with energy and enthusiasm in a press conference Monday morning.

The press conference was kicked off by a few words from GS Athletic Director Tom Kleinlein as well as a presentation of a jersey with Howard’s name printed on the back to make things official.

As the eighth women’s head basketball coach hired Howard is ready to put the Eagles back on the winning side of things following former Head Coach Kip Drown who only lead the Eagles to a 32-86 record.

“I don’t like losing, and I know everybody in here is saying ‘coach, nobody likes losing,’” Howard said. “But I’m like allergic to losing. I don’t plan on starting to lose here, so I’m going to do everything in my power to bring in a coaching staff that is off-the-chain, bring in some strong recruits to go along with the returners that we have.”

Howard made it clear she was ready to “shock the Sun Belt” by turning the program around and she’s prepared to put in the work with the girls as she already had their first practice set for later that day.

Howard has evidence to show she’s more than capable of leading a successful team as she was coaching at Columbus State prior where she lead the Cougars to a 66-25 record during her three seasons as well as leading them to a NCAA DII Elite Eight appearance in the 2016-17 season.

Howard is also breaking barriers and making history by being named the first female African-American head coach and is planning on further making history by turning the program around.

Prior to the press conference Howard was able to sit down with the team and talk about expectations for the season as well as her hopes for the girls.

“We actually got to laugh a little and then we got down to business and talked about what the future holds for Georgia Southern women’s basketball,” Howard said. “The biggest thing I talked to them about is the belief that they can do it, and to trust me and what we’re going to bring to the table.”
Georgia Southern baseball to cap full week of play on the road

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern baseball team will be looking to break their two loss streak and will have ample opportunity to do so as they will cap the week of play with a series against rival Appalachian State.

GS (16-13, 5-4)

Coming off losing a series against conference opponent ULM, the Eagles are hoping to break a loss streak of two and improve both their overall and conference records.

As of the beginning of the week, the Eagles are showing a batting average of .276 while notching 169 runs, 261 hits and 18 home runs off of 946 at-bats.

Leading GS on the bats is junior infielder Steven Curry. Curry shows for a .351 batting average as well as notching 20 runs and 33 hits off of 94 at-bats.

Pitching-wise we can expect to see junior pitcher Seth Shuman have some time on the mound as he has a 3.79 ERA while throwing for 58 strikeouts in the 38 innings he’s pitched on the season.

App State (11-15; 4-5)

The Eagles will conclude their weekend play while taking on the Mountaineers who will be looking to extend their win streak as well as claiming a conference victory over their long-time rival.

App State averages .258 on the bats as a team while collecting 144 runs, 223 hits and 13 home runs on their 866 at-bats. Leading for the Mountaineers is Luke Drumheller who shows for a .409 batting average, notching one home run, 13 total runs and 38 hits off his 93 at-bats.

The Eagles should prepare to see Will Sprinkle on the mound at some point over the course of the weekend as the sophomore pitcher seen the mound for 40.2 innings while logging 21 strikeouts.

The Eagles will be traveling to take on the Mountaineers in a weekend long series, with Friday’s game set to start at 6 p.m., Saturday’s set for 1 p.m. and Sunday’s set for noon. All three games will be streamed on the Georgia Southern Sports Network.

Softball looks to break losing streak on the road

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern softball team will be looking to bounce back from a weekend sweep as well as breaking their five game losing streak as they travel to take on UL Monroe in a weekend series.

GS (16-18; 3-9)

The Eagles have struggled these past few games, just falling short on the bats and collecting five straight losses, while showing for an overall record of 16-18 and a conference record of 3-9.

As a team, the Eagles show a batting average of .262 while junior outfielder Shelby Wilson leads GS with her .395 batting average. Wilson has collected 21 runs, 34 hits and seven home runs on the season during her 86 at-bats.

Pitching-wise we can expect to see sophomore Rylee Waldrep as she has seen the mound for 84.1 innings this season, throwing for 33 strikeouts and showing a 3.65 ERA.

ULM (5-29; 2-10)

The Warhawks have logged a less than successful season so far as they've struggled to claim a victory at home as they've shown a 0-8 home record on the 2019 season.

As a team, ULM bats an average of .233 with leader Sydney McKay showing for a .421 batting average off her 107 at-bats. McKay has logged 18 runs and 45 hits on the season as well as showing a slugging percentage of .477.

The Eagles should prepare to see Adrianna Chavarria on the mound at some point over the weekend as the freshman pitcher has logged 28 strikeouts in the 61 innings she has pitched, earning her a 3.90 ERA.

Weekend play will begin Friday as first pitch is set for 3 p.m. in Louisiana.
EVERY STUDENT ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE THEIR PRESIDENT & 1 ADDITIONAL LEADER ATTEND

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*Advisors are strongly encouraged to attend a workshop and will receive 2 WINGS points for attending*

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