The George-Anne

April 25, 2019

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LAVENDER GRADUATION
Gay-Straight Alliance and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies to host LGBT+ graduation event.
Page 7

GOLF TOURNAMENTS
Men and women's golf teams compete in Sun Belt Tournament.
Page 15

GRADUATION SURVEY
Survey reveals expected small graduation attendance.
Page 6

Drag in the South
Local drag queen talks about the experience of performing in the south
Page 8-9

Brown after the Boro
What’s next for the stand out point guard?
Page 5

TACTICAL ATHLETE PROGRAM
Rehabilitation science students participate in simulation.
Page 5
**EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS**

**APRIL 25**

**BOULDERING NIGHT OUT**
Each BNO has a different theme and we strongly encourage individuals to dress to the theme (we usually have a best-dressed prize)! This event is open to all ranges of experience, whether you are an experienced climber or a first timer this event is fun for everyone.

Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Jumphot Facility | 158 E Parrish Street

**APRIL 26**

**LEGO MOVIE 2**
Join the University Programming Board for our monthly Friday movie series. This event is free and open to the public.

Friday, April 26 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m
Russell Union Theater

**APRIL 26**

**NATIONAL PRETZEL DAY**
In honor of National Pretzel Day, GUS Mart in the RU will offer a free 24 oz soft drink with the purchase of any pretzel.

Friday, April 26 at 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Russell Union GUS Mart

**APRIL 27**

**WOMEN’S FIREARM FUNDAMENTALS**
Participants will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the anatomy of the different handgun systems, benefits and drawbacks specific to each of the platforms and their operation. In addition, participants will be introduced to the fundamentals of shooting.

Public/Faculty/Staff - $75; Students - $50
Saturday, April 27 at 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Shooting Sports Education Center

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**#PETSBORO**

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 @GA_Visuals!

Oakley
Owner: Garrett Jeffries
Freshman construction management major

---

**OUR HOUSE**

We asked Georgia Southern students...

**DEANDRE**

Go to the library. Drink lots of coffee. Stay awake. Use Quizlet.

**SAM**

Study in intervals.

**BRENDAN**

Get food. Put study music on.

**JOHANNA**

Go to a quiet area with no distractions.

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“What are your tips to study for finals week?”

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Page designed by Morgan Carr
Front page designed by Jayda Spencer
#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!

Georgia Southern students react to 2.5% tuition increase

**BY NATHAN WOODRUFF**

“It won’t have too much of an effect on me as it will other people so I wouldn’t say that I am completely against it, but I know some other people are frustrated,” Evan Fletcher, sophomore criminal justice major said. “It’ll be a debate.”

“I just think it makes people that come from lower income homes, it makes it more unfair for them because they keep raising prices,” Graham Cooper, junior public relations major said. “There are kids who can’t get scholarships, whether it be athletically or academically.”

“I would probably be happy with that but I am not happy about that because what did you raise the tuition for?” Ebony Butler, sophomore exercise science major said. “If they don’t make improvements on our campus, then I don’t want our tuition to be raised.”

“I think it will divide our culture and put more kids in debt to pursue education and it’s just going to cater to people who can afford to go to college,” Emily Hennessey, junior studio art major, said. “For people who are struggling, 2% is a lot.”

The Georgia-Anne welcomes letters to the editor 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. GSU students should include their academic major, year and hometown. 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 Advisory, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.

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TIGERS AREN'T KING OF THE JUNGLE

BY BETHANY-GRACE BOWERS
The George-Anne staff

After Tiger Woods clinched his first major title in 11 years at the 2019 Masters Tournament, there are many people discussing his comeback and I have been in the midst of the madness.

People are raving about his comeback and how his perseverance has pulled him up from ground zero, literally. However, it’s hard to look at a man and respect him as a person when he has caused so many people so much harm.

On that Thanksgiving night in 2009, Tiger’s career came crashing down, along with his personal life. Golf clubs were swinging and cars were driven into trees and it’s all because this famous athlete chose to be unfaithful to his wife.

It’s easy for sports fans, and golf fans especially, to make excuses for him. For example, these are some that I’ve heard recently: “His wife was probably crazy and in it for the money.” “He’s an awesome athlete so who cares if he did all that.”

All I can say is that just because a person is in the spotlight or an awesome athlete, that does not give them an excuse to do these things. That’s what I think is so twisted about those who live their lives in the spotlight.

We, as a society, give celebrities a free pass to do whatever they want and they are still given praise. It’s almost like we worship them.

Now, before every golf fan reading this gets heated, I’ll say that I recognize his success as a golfer, apart from his personal life. People can choose to see him however they want, however, it’s hard to root him on.

His golf game has made a major comeback. There is no question about that. He has redeemed his career from its utter depths when he plummeted from the No. 1 in the world to down in the 1,000s in December 2017.

Woods’ win on April 14 will go down in history. His family, specifically his young children, were able to see their father happy and on top once again and he deserves that recognition, professionally.

As a sports writer, I can say that his statistics from this year aren't the things you remembering the things you have studied,” Harrison said. Jennifer Dillard, sophomore international studies major

finds that spreading studying over several days is a much better option. This keeps her from having to digest a large amount of material all in one day. She also likes to review what she missed on prior tests and quizzes to make sure that she understands the concepts.

“Finally, getting plenty of sleep is paramount,” Dillard said. “Studying at 1 a.m. can be counterproductive when you are too tired to focus the next day.”

The countdown begins

As days pass by, the much dreaded week is quickly approaching. As I learned from fellow CSU students, not waiting until the night before to study, taking care of one’s self and getting plenty of rest seems to be the keys to being prepared for finals.

With that being said, as studying begins and classes come to an end, I wish everyone the best of luck on their final exams.

Jennifer Dillard, sophomore international studies major

The George-Anne staff

These are the results:

Personally, I find that creating my own study guide is the best way for me to prepare for final exams. Combining key information from class notes, handouts, textbooks, PowerPoints and any other useful sources helps me to study the most important information while disregarding the rest.

Emma Tirlot, freshman international trade major, believes that studying in advance is the key to being prepared for finals. This gives her more time to prepare and reduces the amount of stress during exam week. Doing so also allows her to have more time to speak with professors about questions leading into the finals.

Natalie Harrison, sophomore 3D studio art major, believes that taking care of one’s self is the first step to preparing for finals. She makes sure to try and sleep at least seven hours the nights before final exams. “Being well-rested is integral to remembering the things you have studied,” Harrison said.
Georgia Southern student arrested for firearm possession in RAC parking Tuesday

BY ELIZABETH GROSS
The George-Anne Staff

A Georgia Southern University student was arrested for possession of a firearm in a school safety zone on Tuesday at the Recreational Activity Center following an argument at a flag football game.

Quantavius Clover, 19, was found in the RAC parking lot with a loaded Smith & Wesson .38 special revolver and a box containing three bullets in a black backpack, according to the police incident report.

The incident report states that Clover was too young to be eligible for a conceal carry permit. Clover was in further violation of the campus carry policy due to possessing a firearm at an area designated for the use of athletics.

Clover was handcuffed and detained after claiming ownership of the weapon and was placed under arrest after the reporting officer spoke to witnesses, according to the incident report.

The reporting officer discovered Clover’s gun after responding to a report at the area of the intramural fields for threat of a firearm at approximately 7:20 p.m., according to the incident report. Another officer was on the scene and informed the reporting officer there was “a large group trying to fight.”

When the reporting officer arrived, he saw Clover and the group around a black car and heard yelling, according to the police report. Another GS student on the scene told the reporting officer everyone was playing a game of flag football until an argument broke out between the two teams.

The student said he was a player on one of the teams, and heard from other players that someone was talking about a gun. He also said he saw a player retrieve a backpack, and shortly after, both teams exited the field arguing and heading to the black car on scene.

The reporting officer asked the student to identify the player with the backpack, and the student pointed to Clover, according to the incident report. “Upon my approach to make contact with [Clover], I noted he was leaving the scene heading in the direction of the pond in the parking lot,” the reporting officer wrote in the incident report. “I quickly noticed the male only had on one Gucci sandal and was no longer wearing the black backpack.”

According to the incident report, when Clover was questioned about the missing backpack, someone else brought a camouflage backpack, and Clover said that was his backpack.

The reporting officer saw the black backpack on top of the vehicle and asked Clover about it. Clover said that backpack was not his. Then, another person entered the driver’s side, grabbed the backpack and then throwing it inside. When asked about it, the person said multiple times that it didn’t belong to them.

“When I asked why he would put a bag into his car that wasn’t his, he insisted it wasn’t his,” the reporting officer wrote in the incident report. “I asked the subject if I could search the backpack in an attempt to locate a firearm since it was in his possession and did not ‘belong’ to anyone, and he stated, ‘Yes.’”

This was when the reporting officer found the gun and bullets, according to the incident report. Clover’s driver’s license, Eagle ID, other various identification and his other Gucci sandal were also found in the backpack.

According to the incident report, Clover was taken to the GS Police Department for further processing, according to the incident report. According to the incident report, Clover said that during the flag football game, a male team member of his and a “swole” male got into an argument. The “swole” male called Clover’s teammate a “bitch.” Clover said this is when his teammate invited the “swole” male to fight off-field.

“Clover stated he went over and picked up his backpack on the field, and the [swole] male stated, ‘What are you going to kill us?’” the reporting officer wrote in the incident report. “You going to shoot us?”

According to the incident report, Clover said he never threatened anyone with the gun and that he just wanted to talk things over.

“Clover stated that when a black male goes to his backpack, people automatically assume they are going after a gun, and he does not know why the male thought that,” the reporting officer wrote in the incident report.

While Clover is a black male, according to the incident report, the “swole” male that Clover was referring to is also black.

Clover’s charge of possession of a firearm in a school safety zone is classified as a felony.

GS STUDENT WINS UNDERGRAD AWARD
Georgia Southern student receives Best Undergraduate Student Presentation at the 2019 Benthic Ecology Meeting

BY SARAH SMITH
The George-Anne contributor

Sarah Rogers presented her research on the effects of ocean acidification and was awarded first place and $200 cash for the Best Undergraduate Student Presentation at the 2019 Benthic Ecology meeting in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada.

“It was an honor but a surprise,” Rogers said. “I definitely did not expect it.”

Rogers’ presentation, titled “The combined effects of ocean acidification and elevated sea temperature on the temperate coral Oculina arbuscula,” covered her research focusing on the effects of ocean acidification and the increasing temperature of coral along the coast of Georgia on marine organisms and the environment.

“Climate is definitely a hot topic and to me, this presentation was important so that I could contribute my part,” Rogers said.

Ocean acidification, the PH in the ocean becoming highly acidic, is caused by the oceans absorbing carbon dioxide, leading to global warming and harming animals.

Her research began during her studies for her thesis project for the GS honors program. Rogers was mentored by Daniel Gleason, Ph.D., marine biologist and Director of GS’ Institute of Coastal Plain Science, throughout her research.

“[Rogers] took charge and ran with it. She wasn’t in the lab long until I realized that she was very skilled,” Gleason said regarding Rogers’ research. “The presentation was not easy. She was always willing to put in extra work.”

Rogers was recently accepted into Georgia Tech’s Ocean Science and Engineering Ph.D. program. She will graduate from GS with a Bachelor’s of Science in biology this May. Rogers plans to continue her research and education as a professor so she can teach the next generation of scientists.
**STUDENTS VISIT FORT STEWART**

Georgia Southern rehab sciences students participate in interactive soldier experience at Fort Stewart

A survey conducted by the university registrar office shows that 53.3% of graduates do not plan on attending Georgia Southern University’s university-wide commencement ceremony in May. Following changes to GS’ graduation ceremonies, the university asked students to fill out a survey to determine how many planned to attend both the university-wide and college-specific graduations.

As of April 8, 74% of 4,467 graduates had offered the registrar’s office a response, according to an email from interim registrar Wallace Brown.

Out of the 3,263 responses, 1,739 said they will not attend the university wide service.

With over half of the initial responding graduates declaring they would not attend the university’s ceremony, 460 of the same group said they would not attend their individual college commencement.

“We plan to provide an inspiring and memorable commencement experience for all the graduates and their families who will be in attendance,” Brown said.

The university-wide ceremony is set to take place at 9 a.m. on May 11. All individual college graduation ceremonies will be held at different times on May 10 and 11.

**BY TATIANA JOSEPH-SAUNDERS**
The George-Anne contributor

Georgia Southern University’s Department of Rehabilitation Sciences students visited Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield in an effort to get a taste of the interactive soldier demonstrations, while also providing a glimpse into what soldiers have to endure every day on the fort.

Nancy Henderson, DPT, assistant professor of rehabilitation sciences appreciated the opportunity to experience soldier’s routine. “I think the students and I both gained a greater appreciation of the physical demands that Fort Stewart soldiers experience on a daily basis,” Henderson said.

Henderson has worked with soldiers as their physical therapist for over a decade but credits this trip to helping her truly understand the physical demands her patients are required to meet.

This type of experience-based training greatly aid to students interested in physical therapy, especially those who want to work closely with soldiers. Participants are able to see the taxing daily duties of being a soldier, according to GS’ press release.

The trip was made possible thanks to an ongoing partnership GS has with Fort Stewart.

**BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY**
The George-Anne staff

In response to the commencement changes, students in the college of education will hold a presentation and deliver a letter to President Kyle Marrero highlighting their concerns with the changes.

The changes were announced in January with graduation being split into both college-specific ceremonies and a university-wide graduation. The College of Education as well as the Waters College of Health Professions and the Jian-Ping Hsu College of Public Health are scheduled to have their commencement in Savannah.

Kurtis Archer, junior education major and one of the leaders of the presentation, was assigned a final project to work on an education-related issue and wanted to make it about more than just a grade. “We want anyone that can come to come,” Archer said. “It’s our final project, but it’s an important thing for the university.”

Archer and his group hope that the administration and members of the Student Government Association come to the presentation on May 6 to hear the concerns of the students.

“We were trying to figure out a way to tell the administration to say, ‘Look, we’re feeling neglected by you because we’ve been here,’” Archer said. “This has been our school and now you’re telling us we have to graduate over there.”

Earlier this month, Marrero affirmed there would be no changes to the plans announced in January, but that assessment and student reaction would be taken into consideration for future graduations.

“They have worked hard administratively to come up with an ideal from the very beginning,” Marrero said. “I know we’ll do what we do with everything in higher education and we’re going to assess it.”

The presentation is open to the public and set to take place in the Education Building room 1120 on May 6 at 12:30 p.m.

**STUDENTS OPPOSE**

Education students plan presentation in opposition of commencement changes

**New courses offered**

Georgia Southern University’s sports management major has added several new courses and concentrations to be implemented beginning fall 2019.

The new concentrations for students are athletic administration, marketing and revenue generation and sports development.

“We’re trying to stay with what the industry needs and what our students need to be competitive,” Chris Barnhill, associate professor of sports management, said. “We really reached out to our alumni and to our industry partners, and asked what do they think students need to know.

The roll out of courses planned for the 2019 fall semester will only be available on the Statesboro campus as of now, but future expansions will look to include the Armstrong campus as well.

“We want to make sure that we do something that is very Savannah specific when we go there,” Barnhill said. “But we want to make sure that we also have the resources to do it right.”

The additions will mostly impact incoming freshmen, however, current students may also switch to the new degree plan. The department highly encourages current students to speak with their advisor about any potential changes that could delay graduation, Barnhill said.

The new changes look to further spotlight GS’ sports management program, one of the oldest in the nation.

“You don’t wait until you graduate to be a part of the industry,” Barnhill said. “You are a part of the industry from the day you walk on campus.”
The College of Arts and Humanities and the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies program of Georgia Southern University is hosting Lavender Graduation in the Russell Union Ballroom on May 9 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Lavender Graduation is a ceremony for graduating LGBTQ+ and ally students to be recognized for their accomplishments, Ashley Strickland, GSA president said. The committee is made up of both faculty and students. There will be speakers and a reception following the graduation ceremony, Strickland said. The Lavender Graduation ceremony is an event that happens at numerous universities across the U.S., and the first one began at the University of Michigan in 1995, according to the Human Rights Campaign website. Strickland said that last year marked the first-ever Lavender Graduation ceremony at GS. “Last year’s inaugural Lavender Graduation ceremony meant so much to me as a member of the LGBTQ+ community,” Strickland said. “I love having an event to celebrate the graduates who identify as LGBTQ+ and recognize their accomplishments, and to send them into post-graduate life knowing that there is a community from Georgia Southern University that will always be there to support them.”

According to the Human Rights Campaign website, lavender is the color used to signify the event because of its historical significance within the LGBTQ+ community, as it is a combination of pink, a color gay men were forced to wear in concentration camps, and black, the color used to designate lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany.

BY ELIZABETH GROSS
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CREATIVE THINKERS NEEDED

Our creative team is looking for graphic designers, illustrators, and photographers

Build your portfolio!
All majors welcome.
No experience needed!

To apply go to www.thegorgeanne.com and click ‘Apply to Student Media’. If you have any questions please email prodmgr@georgiasouthern.edu.
A Real Queen of the South
Drag show performer shines a light on drag culture

BY SHIANN SIVELL

At first glance, Davis Roberts looks like any other student in the clustered on-campus Starbucks. His eyes are lightly bloodshot from hours upon hours of thesis writing. His clothes are worn and comfortable, fit for any occasion.

Then there’s his beard. There’s nothing particularly unique about it aside from its well-maintained shaped.

However, Roberts’ beard is a major part of his identity, not just as a boy, but as his part of his performance art.

By day, Roberts is a mild-mannered, well-do-to student, but by night he trades in his school books for his best heels and paints his blond beard a feisty red.

For the evening, Davis Roberts takes a back seat so that Jen D’Queer, the bearded drag queen of the south, can take center stage, and enchant all who see her right beside her sisters of the night.

Pre-show history

From the plays of William Shakespeare to the early inclusive beauty pageants orchestrated by drag queen pioneer Mother Flawless Sabrina, drag has been an evolution from a common theater practice to an award-winning form of entertainment that has gained legitimacy both on a national and international stage.

In the past decade drag has become more recognizable due to the sensational success of RuPaul’s Drag Race.

While RuPaul has a special place in the heart of the Drag community, and has helped society understand the culture, there are some instances where it has putting Drag in a one kind of light that causes people who see local scenes to be looked down upon them.

“It’s not without its problems,” Roberts said. “I think one of those problems is that it’s mainstream drag. I don’t think drag race will ever have a bearded queen on because bearded queens aren’t ‘fishy drag.’ I don’t think drag race will ever have a drag king on, which is really unfortunate because Drag Kings are such an underrepresented part of drag.”

Local drag races, such as the one held in Statesboro, allows for ‘different types of queens’ who are lower income and less-accessible resources to be seen by the public.

However, Roberts’ said RuPaul’s is important in making drag accessible to the public.

“It’s essentially the gay superbowl,” Roberts said. “I watch it every year. I’m always at viewing parties. I’m willing to critique it for its few problems.”

A smaller stage

Drag culture is not an uncommon phenomenon on Georgia Southern University’s campus.

For the past 11 years the Gay-Straight Alliance has helped host a shadow cast version of the “Rocky Horror Picture Show,” the sci-fi comedy about a ‘sweet transvestite from transsexual transylvania.’

On top of that, the campus has its own drag race each year, held in the Russel Union’s Ballroom where students line the walls long after all the seats are filled just for a glimpse at the lip-syncing queens.

Roberts, a Statesboro-born performer, attended one such show during his earlier years of college where his interest in drag was peaked.

“Knowing I was gay, I was getting into things that were part of gay culture,” Roberts said. “Drag was one of of those things I was drawn to as an audience member.”

It wasn’t until Roberts saw his first bearded queen during a pride parade that he decided to transition from an audience member to a performer, and has taken the stage as Jen D’Queer for over a year and a half now.

For inspiration he studied queens who used exaggerated comedy to make their audience laugh and feel comfortable.

“I love to make people laugh,” Roberts said. “There’s nothing more pleasing to me as a drag queen than to make people laugh while I’m performing. That’s what I like. Whenever I get to make people laugh, that’s when I’m happiest.”

Getting ready

Roberts exists “as a boy” and as Jen D’Queer, but they are separated only by a thin layer of makeup and a few personality tweaks.

“During the day, as a boy, I’m generally very quiet and reserved,” Roberts said. “That somewhat changes when I get in drag. I’ll definitely more vagarious in drag. Being in drag give you some free passes to be a little crazier, be a little more stupid, be a little more raunchy.”

As a queen, one of the most important aspects of D’Queer’s look is her makeup and hair.

Her wigs can be found rather...
cheaply off Amazon, and the places he finds his signature makeup varies depending on what he’s looking for.

At home, Roberts’ small closet is stuffed to capacity with his denim shirts and shorts and D’Queer’s fur coats, gowns and shoes. Roberts said he is a ‘thrift store shopper’ when it comes to buying performance clothes, and usually has to make adjustments to garments when he can.

“Taking them in isn’t as big of a deal than how you use them,” Roberts said. “How you utilize the things you find is more interesting to me.”

Roberts wears between a women’s 12 to a women’s 13, and sees them more as a utility due to the need to make them last longer. Years of practice made him a confident, blister-free stroller.

Of all his clothes, he spends more money on strong sets of shoes than anything else. “I don’t buy cheap shoes because they break when you’re not 130 pounds,” Roberts said.

To shape his body, Roberts uses one-piece bathing suits and corsets, which for a man of over 230 pounds can be uncomfortable.

“Drag can be cumbersome, there’s a lot involved,” Roberts said.

Taking the stage

The Russel Union hardly has the space to accompany a group of queens. The two small restrooms in the back are already filled to capacity, so Roberts makes use of the dimly lit but spacious hallway.

At his feet is the camouflage gown he’ll be wearing for the evening, accompanied with a bright orange wig that will set off the red in his painted beard swimmingly.

From behind the curtains he listens in pride as his sisters of the night perform and accept monetary tips from hoards of cheering college students.

As the queens filter in and out, cheers and congrats are given among each other, the stage free of competition and any sort of mean-spiritness. The majority of them are amateurs who are more focused on the good time than the money or fame.

“A lot of [being a queen] is building a reputation as a good performer, but also as a good person,” Roberts said. “If you’re a nice person in the backroom, you’re going to be much better received.”
SKATING PARTY!
Glow Edition
Tuesday, April 30
Williams Center Multipurpose Room
6:00 – 8:00 pm

There will be 100 skates. Must be banded to skates. (No reservations)

For more information on accommodations related to access or participation, please contact UPB at (912) 478-2603, at least two weeks prior to the event.

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 and will receive 2 WINGS points for attending

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

SOUTHERN ADVENTURES PRESENTS
BOULDERING NIGHT OUT
THEMED CLIMBING EVENT THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT THE BOULDERING CAVE
April 25 at 7PM

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE SHOWCASE
Interested in learning more about Greek life? Come find out!

Thursday, April 25TH
11AM-2PM
Russell Union
Recula & Commons
83 George Ave., Statesboro, GA 30460

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OR ITS UNITS PLEASE VISIT STUDENTS.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU

STUDENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY BUZZ
STATESBORO CAMPUS - 4.25.19

Women's FIREARMS FUNDAMENTALS
Designed by women, for women
April 27 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Glow Edition
EVERY STUDENT ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE THEIR PRESIDENT & 1 ADDITIONAL LEADER ATTEND
Friday  April 20th, 3:30 pm; Russell Union Theater
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For more information, please contact the Office of Student Activities at osa@georgiasouthern.edu

912-764-5489
912-764-2030
Georgia Southern standout point guard Tookie Brown officially declared for the NBA draft on April 12 on his Twitter page with a highlight video captioned “#4 OUT!” Since then, the tweet has received hundreds of likes and he has received national recognition. Leaving GS with four first-team All-Sun Belt honors, an Associated Press All-American Honorable Mention, 2019 Men’s Basketball Sun Belt Player of the Year, and as the all time leader in GS points and assists among other honors, Brown has definitely left his mark in Hanner Fieldhouse and the record books.

Brown was recently invited to play in the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament in Virginia, where he was one of 64 seniors chosen nationwide to showcase their talents in front of NBA team representatives. NBA stars such as Scottie Pippen, Tim Hardaway, and Jimmy Butler have all played in this four-day, 12 game tournament in the past. With the help of his agent, he is ready to enter the murky waters of the draft process. This is not the first go-around for Brown, though. Last year, he declared for the draft as a junior but eventually changed his mind and withdrew his name around late May. His reasoning was simple, he wanted one more chance to get a Sun Belt Championship. The team was eventually defeated by University of Texas-Arlington in the semifinals of the tournament.

Standing at 6-feet-3-inches and weighing 192 pounds, Tookie Brown is a naturally gifted player. He was the Southern Conference Freshman of the Year in 2017, the Sun Belt Men’s Basketball Player of the Year last season, and a three-time All-Sun Belt selection. He is a great passer, a solid shooter, a great defender, and he can take you for a ride at any point in the game. With the help of his agent, he is ready to enter the murky waters of the draft process.

“Brown was invited to play in the Portsmouth Invitational, giving him ample opportunity to make a name for himself in the professional world of basketball.” ~ Jaren Stephens

“Brown is confident in the team he’s leaving behind, especially with the new class coming in. He mentioned that there will be a few junior college transfers next year. This veteran roster is only adding in two freshmen. With GS racking up at least twenty wins in the past two seasons, there are already high expectations.” ~ Amanda Arnold

“Brown’s parting message for the team is to persevere through the hard times and stay united.” ~ Amanda Arnold

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“The NBA Draft takes place on June 20.” ~ Jaren Stephens
A TEAM WITHOUT TOOKIE
Georgia Southern men’s basketball working to improve and prepare for next season

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The Georgia Archives

After just falling short of being the Sun Belt regular season champions, the Georgia Southern men’s basketball team is already putting in the work to prepare for next season and achieve their goals.

The Eagles found much success in their 2018-19 season, finishing 21-12 overall and 12-6 in the conference. GS also saw two players receive All-Sun Belt honors last season, those being former senior guard Tookie Brown and rising redshirt-junior guard Quan Jackson.

Brown is not an unfamiliar name to anyone who follows Eagle basketball as the former guard broke school records when it came to total collegiate points scored and assists as well as collecting many honors such as being named 2019 Men’s Basketball Sun Belt Player of the Year, All-American Honorable Mention and Georgia College Men’s Player of the Year.

With the immense impact this senior made, the biggest question on the minds of Eagle Nation is how is this team going to handle themselves without Tookie? The answer to that question is with ease. While losing an important player in Brown as well as former senior forward Montae Glenn, will hurt the Eagles, GS still has a strong roster heading into next season.

GS can look to players like rising senior forward Isaiah Crawley and rising senior guard David-Lee Jones Jr. to assume leadership positions on the team as they showed an impressive performance last season.

“Will a lot of it is going to go on our senior class,” Head Coach Mark Byington said in regards to leadership roles being filled in next season. “With Isaiah Crawley, he had a terrific year this year. David-Lee Jones, it’s going to be his third year being here. I think those two in particular, but I’m also excited to kind of see how high Quan Jackson can play. He was all conference this year, I think a lot of it is going to be on him.”

Jackson was a huge contributor on the court for the Eagles, as he averaged 32 minutes of play per game as well as showing for 14.8 points per game, logging 458 points overall. The rising redshirt-junior guard made many show-stopping plays, including his last-second buzzer beater which scored GS their second conference win of the season, as well as helping Byington secure his 100th win as GS head coach.

Jackson has his sights set on a successful season and hopes to make All-Sun Belt again.

“Team goal would be to have a successful season, win a championship, come first in the Sun Belt, things like that,” Jackson said. “Personal goal is just getting better every day, making All-Sun Belt again, and just helping anybody that needs help that I can help out.”

Jackson’s personal goal of getting better mostly concerns his shooting game, with an focus on floaters.

“Tookie worked on floaters all summer and his floater game was pretty good,” Jackson said. “Hopefully it’ll be a big difference in my game and will lead me to the next level.”

Another player to be excited to see on the court next season is rising sophomore guard Calvin Wishart, who worked his way up to being a regular starter by the end of his freshman season.

“You get one year under your belt, that’s one more year of experience,” Wishart said. “I got my foot pretty deep in the water. I mean, I played 18 minutes a game so that was a good taste of college basketball and I’ll definitely be prepared for next year.”

Wishart hopes to work towards a team goal of making it to the NCAA tournament, as well as improving his personal game.

“Individually, I just want to get better,” Wishart said. “It sounds so broad and so generic but you just have to get better. There’s no individual stat that you want to get, it’s just keep working every day, become the best player you can over the summer, and then translate it to the court—get better.”

To get better, the rising sophomore plans to work on his athleticism—focusing on improving his quickness laterally on the defense. The guard is also looking to work on his mental game, trying to improve his decision making skills on the court as well as recognizing plays he needs to make in the moment.

Byington and the rest of the team are also eager to see players who weren’t eligible for play last season have the opportunity to be an impact next season—those being redshirt-freshmen guard/forward David Viti and guard Will Dillard.

“Will Dillard and David Viti, both redshirted this past year, and both are very talented,” Byington said concerning the two. “I’m excited to see how good they can get for next year. There’s an opportunity for them to play, and what kind of role they can have is going to be up to them, but they’re both very talented.”

Eagle Nation can also expect to see an impact on the court within returning senior guard Ike Smith, who applied for medical hardship waiver after being injured early on in what was supposed to be his final season as an Eagle.

“We’ve had all except the one hundred percent assurance he’s going to be back,” Byington said concerning Smith’s status. “But all the paperwork has been turned in and we don’t anticipate any problems.”

As the Eagles have much potential in their returning roster, there’s still work to do in the off-season.

“We were a great offensive team, but we were a poor three-point shooting team,” Byington said. “Hopefully shooting better next year will be a big thing. Our defense was one of our weaknesses up until about the last six or seven games of the year. Hopefully we’re more consistent on defense from the start. It took us a while to kind of understand the importance of it.”

Byington has set three goals for the Eagles this season, those being collecting as many non-conference wins as possible—with the hopes of knocking off a power-five school—being regular season champions and winning the tournament championship.

“The league is going to be wide open next year,” Byington said. “I think we’ll be picked somewhere in the top three of all the teams, but we’ve got to really kind of focus on getting better from now up until November.”

With last season the Eagles found success, but also found a disappointing ending after being knocked out of the conference tournament in the semifinals. While discouraging, the team is looking to use that as motivation to put in the work and come back as strong as ever for next season.

“I think everybody is ready to get back to work,” Byington said. “Our guys were anxious to get back into the gym, work hard in the weight room and get better, which is exciting for a team because we were good last year, but there’s a chance we could be even better.”

Next season’s schedule has yet to be announced, but we can anticipate that non-conference action will start somewhere between late October to early November.

Page designed by Rebecca Hooper
PHOTOS BY JAREN STEPHENS/VAU
**Eagles travel to Alabama for conference series**

The Georgia Southern softball team will be finishing off their week of play with a conference weekend series after playing Kennesaw State Wednesday. For a recap of the Kennesaw State game go to thegeorgeanne.com.

**Georgia Southern (19-24, 5-15)**

These next few contests will be crucial to the Eagles, as the results will affect whether or not they make it into the conference tournament. GS has fallen short on conference play, only showing for five wins and 15 losses.

As a team, GS is batting an average of .285, while senior infielder Hannah Farrell leads the Eagles with her .403 batting average. Ferrell has logged 19 runs, 52 hits and four home runs off her 129 at-bats on the season.

Pitching-wise we can expect to see sophomore pitcher Rylee Waldrep on the mound at some point over the course of the busy week. The sophomore has logged an ERA of 3.99 off her 94.2 innings pitched. Waldrep has allowed for 114 hits and 68 runs while striking out 37 batters.

**University of South Alabama (15-28, 5-17)**

The USA Jaguars have been struggling on the season conference wise, only logging five wins as well as coming off a recent conference series loss to ULM.

The Jaguars prior faced McNeese State in Mobile Alabama on Wednesday this week before preparing to take on the Eagles in their three-game weekend series.

While their record may indicate they’ve been struggling, statistically USA has showed to be impressive. The Jaguars log a team batting average of .290 while showing for 48 home runs on the season as well as notchting 218 runs and 335 hits. Junior outfielder Bittani Reid leads the Jaguars with her .372 batting average after notchting 35 runs, 51 hits and six home runs off her 137 at-bats on the season.

Pitching-wise the Eagles should prepare to see senior pitcher Alexis Reid on the mound at some during weekend series play. The has senior logged an ERA of 3.78 off her 161.1 innings pitched. Reid has allowed for 125 runs and 189 hits while striking out 77 batters.

The weekend series will be taking place in Mobile, Alabama and will go from Friday through Sunday. First pitch as slated for 7 p.m. Friday.

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**BY KAITLIN SELLS**

The George-Anne staff

**BY KAITLIN SELLS**

The George-Anne staff

After a playing two games prior in the week, the Eagles will conclude their busy five-game week with a three-game weekend series against the University of South Alabama. The George-Anne staff

**Georgia Southern (23-17, 10-8)**

The Eagles have looked good so far on the season, showing a winning record for both overall and conference play.

GS is coming off a series win over CCU after winning two of the three games played in the weekend series.

As a team the Eagles are batting an average of .279 after notching 259 runs, 395 hits and 31 home runs on the season. Leading GS on the bats is junior infielder Steven Curry, who is averaging .364 behind the plate after logging 35 runs and 56 hits off of his 154 at-bats this season.

Pitching-wise junior pitcher Seth Shuman has shown immense growth this season and has been on fire these past few games. The junior has logged a season ERA of 2.67 after 57.1 innings pitched. Shuman has logged an impressive 79 strikeouts, while only allowing 44 hits and 25 runs while on the mound.

**University of South Alabama**

The USA Jaguars will be the next conference opponent the Eagles will face as they will compete in a three-game weekend series.

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**Eagles take on South Alabama in weekend series at home**

The Eagles have seen success so far on the season, showing a winning record for both overall and conference play.
Women’s golf finishes third overall in Sun Belt Conference, Ofstedahl takes home Individual Champion title

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern women’s golf team competed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, April 15-17 where they finished third as a team and junior Ella Ofstedahl took home the Individual Champion title.

The Eagles finished out their final round at the LPGA International- Hills Course in Daytona, Florida at five-over-par, allowing them to pass Troy in the rankings and take the third place title.

The University of South Alabama took the team first place title, finishing out the tournament +13 to par, showing round scores of 295, 290 and 292, totaling out to an overall score of 877. Texas State University finished second at +16 to par. GS was just barely behind TXST, being +18 to par.

The Eagles shot an overall total of 882, showing for round scores of 291, 298 and 293. Ofstedahl lead the Eagles as well as landed the title of Individual Champion after an impressive third round which allowed her to move from third place to first. The junior shot three-under-par, logging round scores of 73, 71 and 69- totaling out to an overall score of 213. Siti Shaari of USA was right on Ofstedahl’s heels as the sophomore was -2 to par and shot an overall score of 214.

Men’s golf wins tournament stroke play, falls in semifinals of match play in Sun Belt Championship

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern men’s golf team traveled to Sandestin, Florida to compete in the Sun Belt Championship Tournament where they won stroke play, but were knocked out in the semifinals after falling to the University of Louisiana-Monroe in match play on Wednesday.

The Eagles shot a school record score of 263 as a team and finished 21-under-par in the third round, as well as shooting a total team score of 821, finishing 31-under-par overall.

The Eagles found success as a team as well as finding success individually on the links.

After a one-hole playoff with Luka Maglic of Arkansas State University in the third round, senior Steven Fisk was able to claim the individual medalist honor after shooting 75, 61 and 66, respectively. This being Fisk’s ninth career win, the senior broke a GS record formerly held by Jodie Mudd.

All four Eagles which competed in the tournament placed in the top-20. Impressive freshman Ben Carr tied for seventh after shooting 69, 71 and 66 during the three rounds, finishing seven-under-par. Behind Carr was junior Brett Barron who finished in 14th after shooting four-under-par. Freshman Colin Bowles and junior Jake Maples both tied for fifteenth, finishing at three-under-par.

Men’s golf wins tournament stroke play, falls in semifinals of match play in Sun Belt Championship

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE HAYTACK

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN BELT ATHLETICS

Junior Ella Ofstedahl finished first individually shooting three-under-par.
Spring Launch

Thursday April 25th

Williams Center Plaza
11am - 1pm