The George-Anne

May 2, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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Military History
Georgia Southern student unveils Bulloch County military history as part of a project.
Page 5

Matt Wise
How former Eagles football player uses his faith on and off the field.
Page 9

Eagles Bound for NFL
Five Georgia Southern students hope to begin NFL careers.
Page 14

A Year in Review
Page 6-7

Lunsford ready to take on fall season
Georgia Southern looks to improve from last year’s success.
Page 13

Rosemary Kramer
Rifle team member to compete on world stage
Page 13
**ALL FIRED UP ART SALE**
The All Fired Up Exhibition & Sale features artwork and handcrafted items from local artists, Averitt Center staff and students, the Statesboro Regional Art Association, and the students of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. 
*Friday, May 3 at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.*
*Roxie Remley Center for Fine Arts*

**UPB MOVIE: WHAT MEN WANT**
Join the University Programming Board for our monthly Friday movie series. This event is free and open to the public.
*Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m*
*Russell Union Theatre*

**GIRLS ON THE RUN**
This 5K is a celebration run for all the girls in our program that community runners are welcome to register for.
*Saturday, May 4 at 9 a.m.*
*Resort Dr. Savannah, GA 31421*

**UPB PRESENTS: NO STRESS ZONE**
Looking for a way to destress before finals? Enter our No Stress Zone where we have aqua massage beds, paraffin wax, an oxygen bar and light snacks to revitalize your day.
*Monday, May 6 at 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.*
*Russell Union Ballroom*

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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!

**Barry** (short for Barold)  
Owner: Mak Trujilio  
sophomore  
fashion design major

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**Our House**
We asked Georgia Southern students...

"How are you handling the stress of preparing for finals week?"

**CAIMAN SMITH**
"Staying organized."

**ANNA ELLIOT**
"Go to the gym."

**TREVOR SENTER**
"Take good notes and have a good study plan."

**ELIJAH ARVIE**
"A good playlist and spending time with friends."
#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!

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 once weekly, on Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor email at gaed@georgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5114 or 912.478.5066. For questions e-mail adinfo@georgiasouthern.edu

The George-Anne reserves the right to reject any ads for advertising considerations 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 omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to re-embed 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 responding to all particularly those that require personal information. Students are also urged to report any suspicious offers which might occur 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 at law.

CORRECTIONS: Contact the editor at gaed@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

STAFF LIST

Editor-in-Chief Matthew Enfinger
Coverage Managing Editor Brendan Ward
Daily Managing Editor McClain Baxley
Engagement Managing Editor Tanda Smithe
News Editor Emma Smith
Assistant News Editor Kyle Clark
Sports Editor Keitin Sells
Assistant Sports Editor Bethany-Grace Bowers
Opinions Writer Cy Taylor
Creative Editor-in-Chief Rebecca Hooper
Creative Managing Editor Morgan Carr
George-Anne Design Editor Jayda Spencer
Photo Editor Matthew Funk
Features Designer Nyah Griffith
News Designer Kayla Hill
Sports Designer Dawson Elrod
Marketing Manager Kevin Rezac

The George-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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Rebecca Hooper/Staff
Paris Glasper, psychology
Claudia Hopper, international studies; Taylor Murray, international studies; Kennedy Miller, biology

Rebecca Hooper/Staff
Noelle Walker and Ashton Christianson

Rebecca Hooper/Staff

Reflector Launch

Last Thursday, the George-Anne Reflector has its spring semester launch. Students participated in many provided activities like painting canvases, cornhole, and browsing vendor tables. These students showed off their art skills with painting.

Rebecca Hooper/Staff
Paras Glasper, psychology
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Page designed by Morgan Carr
Opinions

TANDRA SMITH
Smith is a senior journalism major and double minor in multimedia communications and film and production. Smith is from Austell, Ga.
Tandra has been on The George-Anne staff since freshman year, and has held positions such as news reporter, coverage managing editor, and engagement editor.

Matthew Enfinger
Enfinger is a senior writing and linguistics major from Hephzibah, Ga.
Matthew has been on The George-Anne staff since sophomore year, and has held positions such as news reporter, news editor, and The George-Anne editor-in-chief.

Julia Fechter
Fechter is a senior multimedia Journalism major and Japanese minor from Statesboro, Ga.
Julia has been on the student media staff since freshman year, and has held positions such as The George-Anne features editor, G-A enterprise reporter, Reflector print editor, and Reflector culture editor.

Hey you. Yes, you: incoming freshman or rising sophomore, junior or senior. I’m sure you’ve heard all about Student Media, The George-Anne and other entities. Maybe you’ve always wanted to join. Maybe you hate our guts. Either way, I’m bidding adieu to Georgia Southern University and Student Media. Before I go, I want to leave you with some tips about how to survive working for Student Media if you or a loved one manage to find your way into the hallowed halls of the second floor of the Williams Center.

TIP #1: DO JOIN STUDENT MEDIA!
I won’t beat around the bush. You’ll hear many people talking bad about Student Media and The George-Anne. I’ve gotten “What a liberal rag!” to “Sorry, I’m too conservative to take your paper” and much more. Despite this, you should join anyway! Really, the comments are just a precursor to your life in the media anyway.

TIP #2: MAKE SURE YOU HANG AROUND OUTSIDE OF WORK
Yeah, if you thought that you’ll last long at Student Media when you leave right after your shift is over, you thought wrong. All the best moments I’ve had at Student Media have occurred in the late night hours and pre-dawn mornings.
Between watching Vine compilations and having milly-rack competitions as the clock strikes midnight, if you’re not willing to stay long after your shift, you might as well not even stay-period.

TIP #3: MAKE AS MANY FRIENDS AS YOU CAN
Though I learned a lot about being a great journalist from Student Media, my experience would’ve been nothing without becoming close friends with a lot of the staff, both older and younger.
To Ian and Josee: Thank you for my musical tastes and yes, not publishing my cold weather story. I am proud to call both of you guys my journalism mentors, even though I would never admit that while you’re here.
To Taisha and Kiran: Thank you two for showing me that black women can survive and thrive in the media. I’m so excited to keep in touch with y’all as the years go on.
To Blakeley, my friend from day one: It seems like only yesterday we were in candidate class and wondering what the hell we were doing at a Student Media party when we didn’t know anybody else there. Can’t wait for you to walk across that stage during graduation.
To Matthews, my fearless Editor-in-Chief: We’ve come a long way from watching senseless YouTube videos in the library and me driving you around everywhere because your car is always at the stadium. I couldn’t have been prouder to be your friend and work alongside you for three years.
To anybody else I’ve missed: I thank you. I love you.
Yes, there are only three tips, but three of the most important ones you’ll need if you decide to join Student Media. It’s been a hell of four years here and I don’t regret it one bit.

Now that I am actually writing this, I want to thank the collegiate and community people who have influenced my life more so than I want to list my accomplishments. There are so many people I could thank, but I would like to take the time to thank several specific people and groups.
I am thankful that other students from The George-Anne Media Group coached me into the world of journalism when I was a freshman in Spring 2015. Collegues at The George-Anne and The George-Anne Reflector, both past and present, showed me genuine community and how to balance enjoying content creation with being committed to accuracy and precision.
I have also gained valuable knowledge from my professors and teachers, particularly Jennifer Kowaleski, PhD. and Scott Bryant, the photожournalism class lecturer and Statesboro Herald photographer. Scott, you opened my eyes to the creative possibilities of photojournalism and showed me the care that journalists should have for their communities while doing their work.
Dr. K., thank you for the brutal honesty. I may not have always relished your critiques on my articles, but I realize now that you said the things you did because you believed in me as a journalist. You encouraged me to keep trying, even when I was frustrated.
TheGeorgia Southern University and Statesboro communities have greatly shaped me as a person. I am so grateful to have grown up in such a unique community with both a diverse and small-town feel. I am also grateful that I could tell the stories of such a rich array of people.
As I graduate from this university, I do so with all of my experiences as a springboard to serve another community.
From the redirection, the university identified savings and new funding equal to $26.4 million. GS has allocated $13.3 million for FY20 strategic priorities. These priorities include:

- Addressing faculty & staff salary equity studies: $6.5 million
- GS share of 2% merit increase + faculty promotion & tenure: $1 million
- Student success/ enrollment growth/ retention: $2.67 million
- Restoring university reserves: $2.6 million

Fixing pay disparity Part of the funds from the redirection will go towards fixing disparity in pay for faculty and staff, Marrero said in the letter. According to the letter, approximately $6.5 million will be spent on salary equity for faculty and staff, $500,000 will be spent for faculty promotion and tenure salary increases and another $4 million, which includes $3 million from state funding, will go toward salary merit increases to faculty and staff.

The university is investing approximately $2.7 million in salary equity to ensure compensation for the faculty as a whole will be at approximately 90% of peer median. This investment will impact 327 faculty members.

The university also plans to invest $3.8 million to ensure all staff salaries are at least at the entry point minimum of their pay band. There are additional targeted market adjustments planned.

The first round of salary adjustments will impact 816 staff members with no one’s salary being decreased, Marrero said in the letter. Faculty and staff will be informed of their new salaries pending approval from the University System of Georgia in May, according to the letter.

“We are all in this together and will continue to invest in our students’ success, our dedicated faculty and staff and the communities we serve,” Marrero said in the letter.

Vacant positions cut According to the letter, the university identified 196 vacant positions for elimination, which comprised 43 faculty and 90 staff from budget redirection, plus an additional 63 staff positions identified during the Comprehensive Administrative Review process.

Out of the 196 identified vacant positions, 103 positions were eliminated as a direct result of redirection according to the university documents which can be viewed at thegeorgeanne.com.
Georgia Southern’s 2018-2019 Year in Review starts here

Jan 2019
After a five month search, the University System of Georgia named Dr. Kyle Marrero as the finalist for Georgia Southern University’s 14th president.

Dec 2018
Georgia Southern wins second bowl game in program history. The Eagles defeated Eastern Michigan 23-21 at the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl.

Dec 2018
The Office of Student Conduct conducted investigations on fraternities Kappa Sigma and Delta Tau Delta after evidence of hazing practices at the two fraternities surfaced. Delta Tau Delta would later lose its national charter.

Jan 2019
Georgia Southern announces changes to spring 2019’s commencement ceremony in May. Student led petition calls for graduation plans to be changed back.

Jan 2019
Temper flared over commencement changes at first spring Student Government Association meeting. Dozens of students spoke about their concerns and frustrations with the announced commencement changes. Documentation shows that GS’ Student Government Association was told of the upcoming changes in fall 2018.

Feb 2019
Bloodstained Men & Their Friends, an organization that protests circumcision, demonstrated on the Georgia Southern University campus on Feb. 7.

Feb 2019
Dean Melanie Miller officially fills the position of Dean of Students at Georgia Southern University. Miller brings over 20 years of experience working in higher education.

Feb 2019
Rosemary Kramer becomes first Georgia Southern student-athlete to be selected to appear at the NCAA Rifle Championships.

Feb 2019
Student Government Association senators overwhelmingly voted down a resolution calling for the reversal of the recent changes to Georgia Southern University’s commencement ceremonies on Feb. 20. The resolution was passed earlier by the Armstrong campus SGA.

Jan 2019
Kennedy Hall residents were notified on Jan. 9, that they would not be living in their assigned housing this semester due to levels of mold being detected inside.

May 2018
President Hebert announces his resignation from Georgia Southern. The University System of Georgia announces that Shelley Nickel will serve as interim president.

Jul 2018
Georgia Southern releases statement regarding student’s use of racial slur gone viral. The “triggerish” event was covered by national news such as The Washington Post and The View.

Nov 2018
Former gubernatorial candidate and now Governor Brian Kemp held a rally on Nov. 2 in the front parking lot of Anderson’s General Store in Statesboro. Kemp’s campaign stopped in Statesboro a month earlier for a private campaign fundraising event.

Nov 2018
Georgia Southern defeats in-state rival Georgia State 35-14 at Turner Field.

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Jan 2019
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August 2018
Lime bikes and scooters roll on the Georgia Southern’s Statesboro campus.

August 2018
Beloved Dean Jackson announces she will be leaving Georgia Southern University to serve as Albany State University vice-president of student affairs.

September 2018
Georgia Southern takes on the Clemson Tigers in Death Valley Stadium. The Eagles scored one touchdown on the highly ranked team but would eventually lose 38-7.

November 2018
Student led walk out on Nov.1 concluded with students issuing a letter with Interim President Shelley Nickel. The letter listed disagreements with the usage of the N-word on Georgia Southern University’s campus and actions that students would like to see taken.

October 2018
Two Georgia Southern professors were accused of using the N-word to students. A recording of what is said to be Professor Karen McCurdy went viral on Twitter. A GS student blog accused Professor Rebecca Kennerly of saying the N-word. Both professors did not wish to comment.

October 2018
Georgia Southern demolishes rival App State at Paulson Stadium. Fans stormed the field after the Eagles won 34-14.

March 2019
Georgia Southern names Anita Howard as new women’s basketball head coach.

March 2019
Tormenta FC stadium breaks ground and announces new Publix for Statesboro.

March 2019
Man arrested after driving into lake on Georgia Southern campus.

March 2019
Georgia Southern welcomes Kyle Marrero and family on his first day as president.

April 2019
University Villas to relocate students due to structural issues found in select apartments.

April 2019
Juwan Smith named winner of Student Government presidential election.

February 2019
Student Government Association convention passes legislation calling for reversal of commencement changes.

February 2019
Georgia Southern announces that it will conduct a budget redirect due to a decline in student enrollment.

February 2019
Georg Lewis, vice president for student affairs at Georgia Southern University, was been named interim president at Atlanta Metropolitan State College effective July 1.

September 2018
Georgia Southern University student Malik Jones was found dead in his Freedom’s Landing apartment the night of Sept.18. An autopsy later determined that Jones died of natural causes due to a cardiac arrhythmia, or Sudden Cardiac Death.
**STUDENTS OPPOSE COMMENCEMENT CHANGES**

Education students plan presentation in opposition of commencement changes

**BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY**
The Georgia Anne staff

In response to commencement changes, junior 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 two college-specific ceremonies and a university-wide graduation. The College of Education as well as the Waters College of Health Professions and the Jiang 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 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 big university that could work in consolidation,” 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.

The letter being sent to Marrero can be viewed at thegeorgeanne.com.

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**Dingus Magees celebrates 40 years in business**

**BY ANTHONY BELINFANTE**
The Georgia Anne staff

Dingus Magees, commonly referred to as “Dingus” by Georgia Southern University students and alumni, has been a part of the GS community for 40 years, and celebrated the milestone on April 27.

Labeled as “The Heart of Statesboro,” Dingus was first opened on April 24, 1979.

“It’s kind of surreal. It just doesn’t seem like it’s been 40 years,” Dingus owner Stephanie Owens said.

While it was business as usual on the special day, customers were able to take part in giveaways Dingus had planned throughout the day, which included raffles, drink koozies and more. Former Dingus employees visited the restaurant to celebrate.

Loyal customers and a celebrity love story
Going to Dingus has become a tradition for GS students, with many generations spending their time at the local restaurant over the years.

GS graduate Caroline Burnette spent many nights there as a student, which was something her parents did as well. Remembering her time at Dingus, Burnette has nothing but positive memories with friends.

“There are too many nights to count all the good times and forgotten-about bad days while at Dingus,” Burnette said. “It’s the place you can always count on to make a memory and see friends.”

While Dingus is known for its live music and friendly atmosphere, it is also the place where country music star Luke Bryan met his wife.

Bryan met his wife Caroline at Dingus back in 1998 when she was a freshman.

“A love story that has carried on for many many years,” Owens said. “And I hope we had something to do with it.”

40 years and counting
Being open for 40 years, Owens has tried to keep the look and atmosphere of Dingus the same for new and returning customers.

“I don’t like to change things,” Owens said. “I like the look to be the same when they come back in year after year. They get that fuzzy feeling about great times that they had here.”

Owens also credits her staff for the success of Dingus over the years.

“I can’t do it by myself,” Owens said. “It takes everybody together to make it successful. That’s just been the best part to me.”

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**Students Oppose Commencement Changes**

Education students plan presentation in opposition of commencement changes

By McClain Baxley

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PLAY WITH THE WISE
Former Eagles football player uses faith on and off the field

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

Matt Wise (white shirt) volunteers as the Georgia Southern football team chaplain as well as serving as the director of Athletes In Action.

It’s Saturday in late September. The Statesboro heat hits the turf to where the humidity rising can be seen from the stands.

Lining the sidelines of Paulson Stadium are foam pads and water coolers that are waiting to be tackled and drank. Fans have begun filing into the stands, toting freshly popped popcorn and cold Coca-Cola.

Inside the locker room, the Georgia Southern football players are going through final walkthroughs before facing an Arkansas State team.

Before the Eagles leave to start their march to the tunnel, GS team chaplain Matt Wise puts his hand over the team to pray. Nearly three hours later after Wesley Kennedy III completes the moments comeback against the Red Wolves, Wise takes a moment with the players to pray again and give thanks.

The walk-off win that happened moments before sent the players into jubilation, but Wise and the coaching staff are waiting to be tackled and give thanks.

“Everybody believes in something. Everybody holds to something. But I think when you have that platform like Coach Lunsford has and uses it to leverage it for good, he doesn’t force guys to believe in his faith, but you can tell by the decisions he makes and the way he carries himself, his identity is not wrapped up into his job.”

Wise carries himself in the same way — letting faith guide his decisions and not letting his title drive him. With this mindset, the former starting defensive end is able to continue serving in his various character-driven roles.

“Coming out of college, I had two passions: Sports and the Lord,” Wise said. “Combining those two together, being able to come in on a volunteer basis and work with athletes has been amazing.”

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“Coming out of college, I had two passions: Sports and the Lord,” Wise said. “Combining those two together, being able to come in on a volunteer basis and work with athletes has been amazing.”

With Chad Lunsford take over as head coach, the change in culture has been noted relentlessly. It’s contagious and can be seen on the field from the players and coaching staff.

Wise credits the on-field success to Lunsford’s character and leadership.

“I think your faith plays the most important part in who you are,” Wise said. “Everybody believes in something. Everybody holds to something. But I think when you have that platform like Coach Lunsford has and uses it to leverage it for good, he doesn’t force guys to believe in his faith, but you can tell by the decisions he makes and the way he carries himself, his identity is not wrapped up into his job.”

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“Coming out of college, I had two passions: Sports and the Lord,” Wise said. “Combining those two together, being able to come in on a volunteer basis and work with athletes has been amazing.”

Wise married Colleen Deignan, a former GS soccer player, and both of them work for Athletes In Action. The two live in Statesboro with their daughters Hope, Kennedy and Berkley.
FROM STATESBORO TO THE BIG STAGE

Kramer sets eyes on international competition after storied collegiate career

BY RYAN KOSTENSKY
The Georgia-Anna staff

Senior markswoman Rosemary Kramer ended her time at Georgia Southern in soaring fashion, becoming not only the first Eagle to qualify for the NCAA championships, where she would finish third, but also becoming the first All-American in the program’s six-year history. But Kramer almost didn’t come to GS, and her story as an Eagle almost didn’t happen.

Hailing from Cuilodon, Georgia, Kramer comes from a family where shooting was a way of life. Her mother, Whitman, shot pistols in high school, and her father, Kevin, was a member of the club rifle squad at West Virginia University. The senior talked about life growing up and how the thing she became so good at started as just a fun activity.

“My family always kind of taught us about shooting and made sure we were aware of the safety and discipline of it,” Kramer said. “So I did it a lot when I was a kid, from deer hunting, to just go shoot balloons and tin cans just to have fun with the family. It wasn’t until she reached high school that Kramer realized her talent at the sport. She shot her highest score ever recorded at her high school, Upson-Lee, in a tryout for the team. In her junior and senior seasons, GS’ most elite markswoman appeared in nationals twice, finishing in the top 10 on both occasions.

As is the case for many collegiate athletes around the country, Kramer’s career as an Eagle almost didn’t happen—she originally planned to go to Columbus State University.

The president of CSU cancelled the rifle program the day before Kramer was set to sign her letter of intent. The cancellation left her scrambling to find another option, but thanks to what would’ve been her head coach, the senior was pointed in the direction of GS. The rest, as they say, is history.

Just a brief look at Kramer’s awards and honors helps paint the picture of how great her career has been. She is a three-time selection to the First Team All-SoCon Air Rifle honors, being named to the list every year from her sophomore season on.

Not only is Kramer the first All-American and NCAA medal winner in program history, but she also owns each of the top-10 all-time highest air rifle scores and seven of the top-10 highest aggregate scores in school history. Kramer will likely go down as the best student-athlete in women’s rifle program history.

When asked about her favorite moment as a member of the rifle team, Kramer talked about the unlikely victory at the 2017 Air Rifle Championship at the Citadel, alluding to just how big it was for her and her teammates.

“That was just huge for everyone,” Kramer said. “Everything about it was great, we were not expected to win, we didn’t expect to win, but we did. And the whole time the other coaches were like trying to check the scores and make sure it’s right because there’s no way that we won, but we did and we’re really proud of it and we stuck with it and got it again this year.

The team has seen exponential growth since the arrival of Head Coach Sandra Worman in 2017, helping Kramer and the squad reach their potentials through a more mental approach of the sport.

“We had a lot of planning this season,” Kramer said. “From the start Coach [Worman] got us some really great resources and was a great resource. She told us about all these different ways and tactics to plan for with mental management, so we were able to do positive visualization, imagery, just all this kind of stuff, meditation to prepare our minds for being in a situation that was stressful.”

Preparing for stressful situations is part of why Kramer is where she is today, as she’s taken the mental preparation to heart as opposed to the physical aspect of preparation.

The senior explained that while most athletes will practice their shooting five, six days a week, her approach is much different. Instead, Kramer would shoot once, sometimes twice a week, while spending the rest of the time getting her mind right.

While the experienced markswoman leaves GS with countless impressive records, she knows the program is in good hands. She’s watched it continue to grow since her arrival to Statesboro just four years ago.

When asked about what it’s been like to see the team continue to improve during her time as a member, Kramer described the feeling as “amazing” and “uplifting”, while stating that the team is on a good path.

“I know that in the next few years, because of the impact that my team has made, that we are really gonna send [the program] places,” Kramer said. “People are going to come from all over the country to shoot here and to be a part of the program.”

As if Kramer’s accomplishments as an Eagle weren’t enough, the senior biology major has her eyes set on taking her talents to the World stage, already having multiple upcoming international events.

Kramer already has a full summer booked, with plans on traveling to Germany in May for the Munich World Cups, followed by Nationals in Fort Benning, Georgia in June and the World University Games hosted by Italy in July.

The international stage will prove to be challenging, as these trips mark her first time leaving the country. In August she’s planning on moving out to Colorado Springs, home of the Olympic Training Center with dreams of gold medals on her mind. If Kramer does well in the different events she participates in, Georgia Southern could have an Olympic athlete come 2020. But whether or not she qualifies for the Olympics, Kramer is determined to finish her time as a GS student by graduating with her degree in biology in the fall of 2020.

By coming to Georgia Southern in what was an afterthought, Kramer has etched herself as one of the most impressive student-athletes in the annals of GS alumni past and present, while showing what it truly means to be an Eagle in the process.

Senior Rosemary Kramer was selected to represent Team USA in the World University Games hosted in Naples, Italy.

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LUNSFORD LOOKS TO NEXT SEASON

Chad Lunsford is ready to continue to prove that Eagle football is back.

BY BETHANY-GRACE BOWERS
The Georgia-Anne staff

Chad Lunsford is ready to continue to prove that Eagle football is back.

The Georgia Southern Eagles spent last football season showing Eagle Nation that they were back to doing what they do - best-winning games, and Head Coach Chad Lunsford is already preparing for another successful season.

Many people recognized that the Eagles looked and performed differently as soon as Lunsford stepped into the position as head coach.

What Redemption Felt Like
The team was hearing new phrases and practicing in ways that they never had before. This refreshing system of work was the catalyst for taking a 2-10 season and making it a 10-3 season.

Football in Statesboro is not something that has ever been taken lightly and that 10-3 record restored a sense of hope in the hearts of the school, the community and even the people behind the scenes of the whole operation.

“I think the best way to put it is it was special,” Lunsford said. “Our kids believed, our coaching staff believed, I believed and we were all on the same page. So much credit goes to our players, so much credit goes to our staff because they bought into what our plan to win was and they bought into the Georgia Southern mark.”

It was all about a mental game for the Eagles. Once everyone was on the same page, it seemed to go as smooth as ever. Yes, there were still a few bumps in the road during the season, however, it was clear to see that the Eagles were in it to win.

NEVER COMPLAINT
Even though GS got to enjoy the Camellia Bowl win in December, it was immediately back to the grind for the team and the offseason has been extremely important for them.

“I think having a consistent coaching staff, in that same offense, same defense, same special teams, same way of doing the things that we did to get us in that position last year,” Lunsford said. “I think that’s important, the continuity piece.”

There is no harm in consistency. People can’t deny that the Eagles performed will last season and there is nothing wrong with keeping some things the same because they worked, but at the same time Lunsford isn’t letting things get complacent.

“We also are able to learn from the things last year that we could make better,” Lunsford said. “I see a team that is comfortable in that they have the same offense and defense, which I think is a good thing, but I also see a team that wants more.”

Even though the jump from the 2017 season to the 2018 season was a huge one, the Eagles didn’t play perfect football every time that they hit the gridiron and while perfection is hard to reach, GS will strive to get there.

“Now when you come off a 10 win season and you improve, it’s going to be like that [small] and it may not be as noticeable,” Lunsford said.

“But, I think you’ll see the same blue collar, the discipline, the tough. I think you’ll see that same mindset and then guys just wanting it and going ‘I’m not satisfied.’”

There is so much hunger in the eyes of the Eagles. The improvement of last season was easy for fans to see, but now the players can’t focus on being noticed. GS football is back, but now the Eagles are striving for a spotless record for the 2019 season.

Who to Watch for Next Season
With that in mind, there are a few players that will step up into leadership roles now that seniors are graduating and leaving the field for the last time.

On defense, Lunsford mentioned players like rising redshirt-junior Shai Werts, who had an awesome season last year, but will step up as a leader and continue to improve in his role as quarterback.

As an offensive line unit, rising redshirt-senior Jake Cooper and rising sixth year Jake Edwards are names that fans are sure to see more of along with rising redshirt-sophomore Logan Wright at running back and rising redshirt-senior Colby Ransom at receiver.

“On defense I think you got to look at Kindle Vildor,” Lunsford said. “A very good football player, but will have control of that secondary. At linebacker, Rashad Byrd, he’s a guy that’s played a lot of football for us, takes it to heart, he’s going to be that for us.”

More players that Lunsford mentioned were rising senior Ty Phillips, and at outside linebacker, rising redshirt-senior Lane Ecston and rising redshirt-senior Jay Bowdry. There is so much potential for leadership among the Eagles and with their focus on the team as a whole, that will be their key to success.

TAKING ON LSU
When looking into the next season for the team, the first game on the schedule is one that fans are already anxious to see take place.

The Eagles are set to travel to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to take on the Louisiana State University Tigers. This match-up might seem crazy to some, but the Eagles will play how they do against any opponent.

“Tigers are the attention to detail, the effort and the finished piece. At the end of the day, the Eagles plan on making next season significantly better than their last and all of Eagle nation knows that last season was monumental. Part of being an Eagle is knowing that the football program does what it takes to win and make GS proud, always. The next season for the Eagles will be nothing short of that and striving to be great athletes and examples on and off the field.

“We’ll prepare like we always prepare,” Lunsford said. “And we prepare to win football games.”

BY JAREN STEPHENS
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GOING PRO

Five football players to begin professional careers in NFL

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

Five Georgia Southern football players were given the opportunity to begin their career at the next level in NFL, announced Saturday.

While none of these players were drafted, being a free agent still gives these Eagles a chance to play at the next level if they work hard enough.

 Tight end Ellis Richardson signed a free agent contract with the Chicago Bears while the other four have accepted invites to rookie minicamps.

Running back Wesley Fields accepted a minicamp invite for San Francisco. Safety Sean Freeman and offensive lineman Curtis Rainey both accepted invites for Atlanta’s minicamp. Finally, safety Joshua Moon accepted his minicamp tryout invitation for Jacksonville.

Richardson logged impressive statistics as a senior, catching 10 passes for two touchdowns during his final season.

Fields was a second-team All-Sun Belt selection his senior year while leading the team in both rushing and receiving yards in the same season. The running back saw 200 carries for 1,050 yards while notching nine touchdowns. Fields is now the third Eagle to go to a 49ers’ minicamp, following Matt Breida and Jerick McKinnon.

Freeman showed for 39 tackles- with 26 of them being solo tackles, six pass breakups and a forced fumble in the 2018 season for the Eagles. The safety was also only able to compete in 10 out of the 13 games during the 2018 season due to a leg injury putting him out for three games.

Rainey was a first-team All-Sun Belt selection after playing on the field for 736 offensive snaps on the season as well as playing all 68 offensive snaps in the Raycom Media Camellia Bowl, where GS saw their second bowl win in program history.

Moon played in 12 games during the 2018 season while logging 41 solo tackles and 30 assisted tackles, totalling out to 71 tackles on the season. Moon was also responsible for two forced fumbles against Arkansas State, one interception against Texas State and one pass breakup against UMass.

WALKER TRANSFERS

Another running back to transfer from Georgia Southern

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

Redshirt-sophomore running back Grant Walker announced on his Twitter Friday his intentions to enter the transfer portal.

“You all took me in from day 1 and have not only become great teammates, but Brothers/Best Friends as well,” Walker said in the tweet. “After much thought and prayer with my family I’ve decided that I will be entering my name into the transfer portal with 3 years of eligibility left.”

The former three-star from Ellenwood, Georgia played against South Carolina State and Coastal Carolina, finishing with seven carries for 17 yards in 2018.

Walker announces his transfership a week after fellow running back Andrew Cunningham announced he was transferring. “We want to wish Grant a successful career in whatever he chooses and desires,” Head Coach Chad Lunsford said in an email.

After spring practice, Walker was one of nine running backs on the 2019 roster. Walker had 11 carries for 35 yards in the spring game.

With departures of Walker and Cunningham, redshirt-sophomores Matt LaRoche and Logan Wright are expected to be the Eagles’ top running backs.
Eagles travel to Troy for weekend conference battle

BY BETHANY-GRACE BOWERS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern Eagles baseball team is set to take on the Troy University Trojans in one of the last few regular season series of the season.

As of now, the GS Eagles have a record of 26-19 overall. For the Sun Belt, the team sits at 12-9 and this weekend is an opportunity to get a few more wins before the end of the season.

Coming off of a loss- but a series win- against the University of South Alabama, the Eagles are ready to take on another Alabama team at J.I. Clements.

Compared to the Eagles, the Trojans now sit at a 22-22 record on their own season overall. Their last series, played against the Little Rock Trojans, came out as a loss since they only won one of the games out of three.

The Trojans had an issue of giving up runs, thanks to their own pitching game and that is where the Eagles will be able to make ground when facing Troy.

One of the Eagles that has been performing well this season and could take advantage of this Trojan weakness is junior infielder/outfielder, Mason McWhorter.

In the second game of the series against USA, McWhorter had two home runs and a whopping seven RBIs, which helped the Eagles get a win that ended up winning them the series. Another player to watch in this weekend’s match-up is freshman infielder, Blake Evans. With three runs and three RBIs against his latest opponent, Evans has picked up momentum towards the end of the season.

Recently, Evans has been accurate on both sides of the ball and this could easily come in handy going into the series against Troy.

The Eagles will travel to Troy and all three games will air live on ESPN+. The game on Friday will start at 7 p.m., followed by the game on Saturday starting at 4 p.m. and game three on Sunday starting at 2 p.m.

Softball takes on in-state rival in last contest of the season

BY KAITLIN SELLS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern softball team needs to gain at least two more wins in this last series against Georgia State to advance to the Sun Belt tournament.

While seemingly struggling, the Eagles still show for impressive statistics. As a team they’re batting an average of .260 while notching 45 total home runs on the season.

Senior infielder Hannah Farrell leads the Eagles with her .369 batting average while logging 21 runs and 57 hits off her 144 at-bats. Pitching-wise we should expect to see sophomore Rylee Waldrep on the mound. Despite her 5-12 wins-losses record, Waldrep has still seen a decent amount of success this season. She’s logged an ERA of 4.00 in her 105 total innings pitched while throwing for 41 strikeouts.

The Georgia State (8-43, 5-19) series against the Trojans now sit at a 22-22 record on their own season overall. For the Sun Belt, the team sits at 12-9 and this weekend is an opportunity to gain two more wins for the GSU softball team.

Senior infielder/outfielder, Mason McWhorter on the mound during the weekend series as the Georgia State (8-43, 5-19)

The Eagles should prepare to see Emily Soles on the mound during the weekend series as the redshirt sophomore has pitched for 112 total innings for the Trojans. Soles has thrown 54 strikeouts on the season while logging an ERA of 5.31.

The series is set to take in Statesboro, starting Thursday at 7 p.m. The series will continue play with game two on Friday at 5 p.m. and will conclude with game three on Saturday at 1 p.m.
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