A LACK OF FEELING

Listening sessions, surveys, and research determine that Georgia Southern lacks diversity and inclusion. PAGE 6

Voter Registration Day
Stacey Abrams and Lynn Westmoreland urge GS students to register to vote.

No Socials For Greeks
Fraternity and Sorority Life raises possibility of no socials
EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS

BOULDERING NIGHT OUT
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! Prizes are raffled and food is served.
Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
RAC Climbing Wall

UPB: FALL FAMILY WEEKEND BLOCK PARTY
Show your family how real Eagles get down on the weekends! There will be a DJ, food, games, prizes, zip lining & more!
Friday, September 27 at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m
Paulson Stadium Parking Lot

UPB: MOVIE - TOY STORY 4
End the night off with a showing of Toy Story 4!
This event is free and open to the public.
Friday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m.
Russell Union Theatre

FOOTBALL VS LOUISIANA
Join the Eagles at Paulson Stadium for Family Weekend and Tackling for a Cure!
Saturday, September 28 at 6 p.m.
Paulson Stadium

Our House

We asked GS students...

“Would you rather eat a jalapeño or a matter baby?”

“Jalapeño.”

“Jalapeño.”

“Jalapeño.”

“Jalapeño.”

“What is a matter baby?”

“Jalapeño.”

“What’s a matter baby?”

“Jalapeño.”

Pet Name: Tip
Owner Name: Martiya Dunn
Senior Public health major

Want you and your pet to be featured next time? Post your photo on Twitter with the name of your pet and a little bit about you (name, year, and major). Make sure you include #petsboro and tag @GA_Visuals!
#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 Student Government Association has meetings every Wednesday at 3:50 p.m. in the Russell Union! They come together to talk about upcoming changes and events with student life! Jwan Smith, President of SGA, is talking now!

Whether you need to trace and paint a banner for an organization you are in, or need to do a class project, check out the Paint Room in the Williams Center. The Office of Career and Professional Development held another resume boot camp Sept. 23 and 24 where students came in and were able to go over their resumes with staff.

The Governor's Commission on Women, Gender, and Sexuality is proud to announce the inaugural Ohio LGBTQ+ Summit, a day-long event designed to bring together the LGBTQ+ community of Ohio to discuss issues and challenges unique to the state.

The George-Anne Statesboro Edition is the official student newspaper of the Statesboro campus of Georgia Southern University, operated by GS students. It is the oldest continuously published student 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 gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne Creative Division is comprised of the editors-in-chief and division managers listed below. The George-Anne Statesboro Edition weekly newspaper is assembled by The George-Anne Creative Division from content provided by all George-Anne Media Group outlets and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its liability for corrections and errors.

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WESTMORELAND AT SOUTHERN

Georgia Southern hosts former Congressman Lynn Westmoreland

“People in politics want a touchdown — but it’s not about winning, it’s about moving the ball forward and building relationships,” said former Georgia congressman and U.S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland to students and faculty Tuesday in the Georgia Southern Performing Arts Center. “Politics is our power,” said Westmoreland, a Republican from Georgia’s 8th congressional district who served from 1993 to 2005. “A good citizen is someone who votes and participates in the polity,” he added. “I believe that if we fight for fair and equal opportunity to demand that change, then change will come to all of us when we have the opportunity to demand that change.”

A BRAMS AT SOUTHERN

Stacey Abrams urges Georgia Southern students to register to vote

Stacey Abrams spoke at Georgia Southern Performing Arts Center on Tuesday to promote Fair Count and encourage the campus to register to vote.

BY NATHAN WOODRUFF

The George-Anne staff

STATEBORO — Lynn Westmoreland, former Georgia congressman, visited Georgia Southern University’s Statesboro campus on Tuesday as part of National Voter Registration Day.

“Politics is our power,” Abrams said. “It’s not about winning, but about making the changes you believe in.”

Former Georgia congressman Lynn Westmoreland Tuesday.

“I was glad to see Congressman Westmoreland was committed to give his perspective on voter registration,” said Blaine Salter, chairman of the GS College Republicans who introduced the Congressman, said that he was honored to introduce a man who was committed to people joining the political process.

“Politics is our power,” Abrams said. “I am not the governor of Georgia, but that doesn’t mean I am not capable of still making the change I think needs to be made in this state.”

Tuesday was National Voter Registration Day. Throughout her speech, Abrams asked the audience to go out and find three people that are not registered to vote and encourage them to do so.

"IF YOUNG PEOPLE DON’T SHOW UP AND PARTICIPATE IN THE CENSUS, THEY WILL GO UNCOUNTED. YOUR TUITION WILL GO UP BUT YOUR STUDENT LOANS WILL ALSO GO UP." STACEY ABRAMS

Stacey Abrams, the 2018 democratic nominee for governor, spoke at Georgia Southern’s Performing Arts Center on Tuesday to encourage the campus to register to vote.

"By the time the right was real, I didn’t believe it was for me," Abrams said. "My grandmother had no belief and hope in the right to vote."

"There will always be those who don’t believe in you, but your responsibility is not only to secure the rights that you are entitled to, but your job is to secure those rights for others," Abrams said.

"I was glad to see Congressman Westmoreland was committed to give his perspective on voter registration," Salter said.

"You have the right to come back and show them an ID and they will count that provisional ballot with the regular ballots," Delgado said. "I vehemently disagree with much of what he said pertaining to the Georgia being a ‘national model.’

Westmoreland also said that people who vote and participate are also the ones who should hold elected officials to their promises.

"They are the ones who elect the elected officials need to hold them accountable," Westmoreland said. "If you voted for them, those are the ones to me who have to hold these officials most accountable."

Westmoreland said that he thought the voting access has gotten better, and that Georgia should be considered a national model for voting, as Georgia has several options that people can use to prove identity and residence.

"Evidently the voting access has gotten better. I don’t know how much more you can do," Westmoreland said. "You can also use a utility bill, a hunting registration or an ID."

If voters do not have their ID with them, Congressman Westmoreland also said voters can use provisional ballots.

"Even if you go into the polling place, and you don’t have your identification, you can still vote on the provisional ballot," Westmoreland said. "You have the right to come back and show them an ID and they will count that provisional ballot with the regular ballots.”

Eduardo Delgado, Georgia Vice President of the College Democrats, who was in attendance, said he respected the Congressman’s viewpoint, but that he disagreed with the Congressman’s on access to voting in Georgia.

"I was glad to see Congressman Westmoreland was committed to give his perspective on voter registration," Delgado said. "I vehemently disagree with much of what he said pertaining to the Georgia being a ‘national model. Though, I do respect some of the points he made during his remarks."

Westmoreland also served in the House of Representatives from 1993 to 2005, rising to the position of House Republican Leader in 2001. As Republican leader, he worked with Georgia Speaker of the House Tom Murphy, a Democrat who served as Speaker of the House from 1973 to 2003. Westmoreland said that building a relationship is key to bipartisan success.

"You have to work with people," Westmoreland said. "And to do that you have to build a relationship, and that’s a hard thing to do."
FRATERNITY & SORORITY SOCIALS COULD BE BROUGHT TO A HALT

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life are exploring options to ensure that chapters are following office policies and procedures through parts of October and November.

BY SARAH SMITH
The George-Anne Staff

Georgia Southern Greek life socials are not allowed during parts of October and November unless approved by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Coming off an academic year where three chapters were suspended and two girls have fallen out of GS fraternity house windows, the Office is looking to be proactive.

October and November are not on “blackout” for socials, but it is on the table as an option, according to Francisco M. Lugo, M.Ed., GS’ Director of the Office of FSL.

“We are accepting and allowing social during the first two weeks of October,” Lugo said in an email sent Friday afternoon. “Something we will be revisiting again next week as we continue to stress to our chapters the importance of following our policies.”

The office is aiming to find a healthy balance of having social and academic fraternities, according to Lugo. “It’s an option we are exploring to make sure all fraternities and sororities are following our protocols and procedures within the office,” Lugo said in an email.

The publicizing of events and creating open parties caused the office to explore these options. Social policies are put in place nationally so that the socials are closed and every attendee is accounted for, according to Lugo.

“If we can’t come to a consensus…[blackout] is a possibility,” Lugo said. “We’re not giving them the idea that you can submit paperwork. In order for us to move forward, we need to make sure that [the chapters] are at a point where [they] understand the severity. [The chapters] understand that we need to create some sense of urgency in what’s going on.”

The reality is that leadership changes every year, creating inconsistency in the chapters, according to Lugo.

“My responsibility as director is to at least plant that seed of change to make sure that we are changing in the right direction,” Lugo said.

The possible blackout applies to all 33 chapters on the Statesboro campus.

BY SARAH SMITH
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THREE CAMPUSSES  ONE HEARTBEAT

'Three Campuses One Heartbeat' study finds that Georgia Southern is lacking in diversity and inclusion

The George-Anne staff

The first was a campus climate pulse survey, which felt satisfied with the climate, 46% felt valued and

64%  CLIMATE

46%  VALUED & BELONG

58%  DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

"The very presence of individuals from different
categories including gender identity, sexuality and
race.

The results were broken down into several different

Along gender identity lines, men had significantly
gender groups, with 67% saying they were satisfied
their trailblazing status in certain fields and roles,

The study found that 63% of women felt satisfied

climate significantly higher (65%) than LGBTQIA
significantly higher (48%) than LGBTQIA respondents
commitment significantly higher (60%) than LGBTQIA

112 respondents identified as gender non-
conforming. Out of this demographic, 45% felt satisfied

HETEROSEXUAL
LGBTQIA

56%  48%  36%  47%

CLIMATE  VALUED & BELONG  DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Men
Women
Gender Non-Conforming

The George-Anne staff

with diversity, equity and inclusion efforts was a
we were fighting for their jobs.
and told to figure out who will keep their jobs was

The study had three variables: Diversity and
Inclusion, while gender nonconforming community
members reported the most challenging experiences
inclusion, while gender nonconforming community
members reported the most challenging experiences

The listening sessions found that disengagement

According to the survey, overall, Liberty had the
highest percentages for satisfaction, a feeling of value and belonging and an

The study reads:
"The very presence of individuals from different
gender groups is a driving force for the
development of a cohesive GSU community and enter the national
agenda of diversity and inclusion. The study sought to answer four
questions:

• What are the organizational diversity

• What are the key challenges and opportunities

• What is the lived experience of diverse
groups and individuals?

• Are the recommendations for forward

to support inclusive excellence?

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to support inclusive excellence?
The study found that along racial lines, minority students are having different and sometimes more negative experiences on campus. Among White, 75% felt satisfied with the climate, 53% felt valued and belonging and 65% felt there was an institutional commitment to diversity and inclusion. Among Asian American/Asian students 69% felt satisfied with the climate, 52% felt valued and belonging and 67% felt there was an institutional commitment to diversity and inclusion. Among Hispanic/Latino respondents 73% said they felt satisfied with the climate 46% felt valued and belonging and 73% felt that there was an institutional commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The study said that the Statesboro community as a whole might have something to do with faculty and staff of color leaving. "The student groups that I met with they wanted GS should consider developing a divisional director of diversity and inclusion role, titled "Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence", that manages the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and work to overcome some of the challenges noted in the study and to establish a Strategic Diversity Backlash, Build Community and Diversity Backlash, for Strategic Diversity Leadership, Opportunities to Engage the campuses through developing a campus climate survey for winter 2019 in an effort to assess any change in the climate. It is recommended for GS to set up a new strategic plan, to develop an activation plan that outlines the key elements of this report. Discuss the report with senior leadership, and have them produce a one-page memo with steps in order to implement the recommendations proposed in the report.

Another reason for some of the negative results were cultural flashpoints over the last three years, especially on the Statesboro campus. "Members consistently mentioned diversity flashpoints like the "triggerish" student-athlete incident and the classroom use of the "n" word by a respected faculty member and others as having a devastating effect on perceptions of the campus climate institutionally," the survey reads.

"We can all agree it was stupid, it was bad. It showed ignorance on the part of the student," Reiber said. "But the problem was that it fell under First Amendment free speech. In the First Amendment Edition that the triggerish student’s comments were stupid, but that the First Amendment limited the University’s ability to punish the student." The study found that all three campuses had a call for Strategic Diversity Leadership, Opportunities to Build Community and Diversity Backlash, specifically one of the most recent campus, diversity backlash seemed to rise to the top. "While the first two themes reveal that many believe in a deeper commitment to diversity and inclusion, there is a strong presence of pushback that must be acknowledged as part of the culture at Georgia Southern generally, and, in a more pointed fashion, at Statesboro," the study reads.

According to the study, there were more than 200 backlash comments against diversity and inclusion as part of the open-ended aspect of the survey. The study pointed out that when the words were violent, they could be considered inflammatory. "Serious comments included calling for the building of walls, comparing diversity and inclusion efforts to the same as a war," the study reads. "And calling for a stop to any conversations—for racial and gender equality to be stamped from existence."

Some of the respondent’s quotes that the study selected included: "There is more to diversity than accommodating the weird outsider kids, the gender non-specific and non-whites. I feel like, Georgia Southern, what about my diversity as an adult?" "I think it is a shame that being a white male at GSU has led to being labeled as apart of that group that we are talked down to, set up as examples and generally treated as the "Bad Guys." "I accept others is a very good practice and should be continued to be practiced like it is currently, but gender and sexual orientation is a bunch of bull.You either are man or woman and either like the opposite sex or the same sex, a combo of both. Recognizing yourself as a cat is very dumb and suggests some sort of mental illness."

"Drop all the diversity horse manuf and leftist politics for judge and jury. An equal opportunity system is a bad system. An excellent system is a system that treats all members of the faculty, staff and student body is valued and encouraged to reach their highest potential, the study reads. Williams left GS leadership with nine steps. Discuss the report with senior leadership, and have them produce a one-page memo with steps in order to implement the recommendations proposed in the report.

"The study called in closing for campus leadership to build an inclusive campus and definition of diversity where all felt belonged. The first step will be to ensure that institutional leadership is aware of and committed to building an inclusive, supportive campus environment. It may be that the university, staff and student body is valued and encouraged to reach their highest potential," the study reads. Williams left GS leadership with nine steps. Identify possibilities in terms of taking new action steps that move the university forward, and engage the campuses through developing a campus climate survey for winter 2019 in an effort to assess any change in the climate. It is recommended for GS to set up a new strategic plan, to develop an activation plan that outlines the key elements of this report. Discuss the report with senior leadership, and have them produce a one-page memo with steps in order to implement the recommendations proposed in the report.

"I think it is a shame that being a white male at GSU has led to being labeled as apart of that group that we are talked down to, set up as examples and generally treated as the "Bad Guys."" The study called in closing for campus leadership to build an inclusive campus and definition of diversity where all felt belonged. The first step will be to ensure that institutional leadership is aware of and committed to building an inclusive, supportive campus environment. It may be that the university, staff and student body is valued and encouraged to reach their highest potential," the study reads. Williams left GS leadership with nine steps. Identify possibilities in terms of taking new action steps that move the university forward, and engage the campuses through developing a campus climate survey for winter 2019 in an effort to assess any change in the climate. It is recommended for GS to set up a new strategic plan, to develop an activation plan that outlines the key elements of this report. Discuss the report with senior leadership, and have them produce a one-page memo with steps in order to implement the recommendations proposed in the report.

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Joe Biden has a long history with policy, and it isn’t pretty. Biden was the co-sponsor of the 1994 Biden-Hatch Crime Bill. A bill that had caused enormous pain in the African-American community. It was a law that extended tougher sentences, along with at times mandatory minimums being imposed. The law is also framed as being a contributor of the ever-growing prison population boom in the 90’s. Not to mention, the growing prison population boom as being a contributor of the ever-increasing dependency on a growing prison population. The law is also framed with Senator Strom Thurmond in 1984, Biden had co-written a bill which expanded civil forfeiture by police.

In 1991, Anita Hill testified in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee to give details on allegations made against Clarence Thomas, then nominee for the Supreme Court. The Chairman of the committee at the time was Senator Joe Biden. The hearing was considered extremely mishandled. Senators repeatedly grilled Hill. Biden allowed the Republican Senators to tear Hill apart and rob her of a fair testimony. As chairman, he denied Hill’s three corroborating witnesses’ testimonies. Biden has now come forward to say he is sorry. Stopping short of personally apologizing to her. Saying something along the lines of, “I wish I could have done more”. Biden recently reached out to Anita Hill by phone and voiced his regret of how the hearing was conducted. Hill had said the call left her deeply unsatisfied. Biden’s half-apology only clarifies that he believes he didn’t do anything wrong. Hill, rightfully, seeks more effort from Biden.

Biden’s tough-on-crime approach is disqualifying in a party that now embraces criminal justice reform. Biden’s actions on the Anita Hill situation has made him seem insincere in a party that is enraged by the Kavanaugh hearing. Dr. Christine Blasey Ford’s testimony is a fresh reminder of the importance of sexual assault awareness to the Democratic Party. Note, with all of this in mind, voting for Donald Trump is immensely worse than voting for Joe Biden.

As the candidates get ready for the next Democratic debates on Sept. 12, the frontrunner remains Joe Biden. But the field is immense in the search for the best Democratic candidate. Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Tulsi Gabbard and Julian Castro, just to name a few, are running on a more progressive agenda and are also younger than Biden as well. All haven’t made nearly as many gaffes as Biden in their respective lifetime either. A strong, vibrant and progressive candidate is the most desirable to compete in the general election against President Trump.

But Joe Biden is currently polling ahead in a Democratic party that is far more diverse than him in every aspect. Biden isn’t the only candidate in this race that has shared his same pain, loss, and hardships. Joe Biden is the only candidate in this race that has shared his same pain, loss, and hardships that most Americans have as well. The sensible Democratic choice is relatable, compassionate and inspired, rather ordinary Joe Biden.
GYMNAST TO GOALIE: SARA STORY

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The George-Anne staff

When freshman goalkeeper Sara Story was younger, she never imagined her life without gymnastics. When her dreams were suddenly crushed, she was forced to find another sport to devote all of her time to.

“I was a gymnast up until I was about twelve,” she said. “I wanted to be an Olympic gymnast. That was the dream. I liked to put on a show and I loved when people were watching me.”

A sudden growth spurt pushed her to be about 5-foot-8, taller than all of her peers. Since most collegiate gymnasts are much shorter than that, she was discouraged of continuing the sport.

In a search for a new passion, Story toyed with the idea of playing soccer. She “just wanted to do something where she could fly,” which led her to goalkeeping.

The first time she tried out for soccer, in sixth grade, the coach told her she was too short for the position.

“I ended up going home and crying so much,” she said. “My coach told her she was too short for soccer, in sixth grade, the coach told her she was too short for the position.

After a motivational talk from her mother that night, she went out to tryouts the next day and made the team. This was the start of her soccer career, and she never thought she’d end up at a Division I school for her talent at the time.

In eighth grade, she started attending camps and combines. She continued to improve on the field as a goalkeeper and decided to keep at it.

During her sophomore year in high school, Story visited GS and immediately fell in love, even though it was one of the first schools she’d ever toured.

“I just felt very welcomed even though I wasn’t even apart of the team,” she said. “Everybody was so happy and it was nice.”

Story describes her hometown of Palatka, Florida as a small town where everyone knows everyone. Her father was her soccer coach at school her senior year and she insisted that he wanted her to enjoy the game and not focus all of her time on recruiting.

When the time came, he assisted her with sharpening up her skills before moving to start her collegiate career.

She played club soccer for United Soccer Alliance DA and competed with the US Soccer DA National Tournament Final 4 team, while playing varsity volleyball. She notched 144 waves throughout her high school career.

“My dad is so supportive in anything and everything that I do,” she said. “He makes sure that I know I can do anything I set my mind to.”

Uprooting her whole life to Statesboro was an easy adjustment because it is the small town feel that she is accustomed to, plus more things to do.

The women’s soccer team has had to undergo a coaching staff overhaul this offseason, with interim Head Coach Josh Moffet at the reins since early August. The team has had a strong start compared to previous seasons and she already sees growth in the team from last spring when she arrived on campus.

“We’re already on track to beat our previous goal record by a lot,” she said. “Our defending is going very well… Josh [Moffet] is taking more of a professional approach on having us actually knock the ball around and play to each other. It’s working out for us very well.”

In the future, she would like to become a sports broadcaster but she wants to keep her options open which is why she’s decided on a communications major.

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Story has not seen action this season, as she is the only freshman goalkeeper on the roster.

MEN’S SOCCER ADDS ANOTHER WIN OVER UAB

BY CHUCK PAGGETT
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern men’s soccer team defeated UAB 3-1 in Tuesday night’s game in Birmingham, Alabama.

The victory for the Eagles was the first in the brief series history against the Blazers and vaults GS’ season record to 4-3.

Sophomore goalkeeper Jokull Blaengsson recorded his second shutout of the season and immediateGS satisfying,” Head Coach John Murphy said in a press release.

“It was a comprehensive team performance I felt, although I was disappointed that we lost the shoutout at the end.”

The Eagles surrendered the lone score of the contest for UAB on an own goal, but an otherwise strong defensive performance limited the Blazers to just three shots on goal for the game.

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Sophomore setter Madison Brown added 22 assists, while Wilson led the team with eight kills. GS played in front of almost 800 attendees in this match, which is the largest crowd they’ve seen all season.

In the last game of the tournament on Saturday night, GS could not rally to defeat ETUS, falling 3-2.

Jones was named to the All-Tournament team for her career-high 36 digs in the match, while the team was led by Turner’s 17 kills.

“It was a tough day, but our team really showed our ability to battle in our last match against ETUS,” Willis said. “We’re starting to see when we take care of our priorities and play within the system how good we can be and the potential we have.”

The team holds a 5-6 record as they travel to Coastal Carolina and Appalachian State this weekend to begin conference play.

Volleyball comes up short in Tennessee Invitational

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern volleyball team went 1-2 in the Tennessee Classic, in the last non-conference tournament of the season.

“Our all, we learned a lot about ourselves in the pre-conference schedule that will benefit us now that we head into the start of Sun Belt play,” Head Coach Chad Willis said.

GS picked up a 3-0 win in the first game of the weekend against North Dakota State. Four Eagles had strong performance in the victory, with junior middle hitter Skylar Ball leading with seven kills and four blocks, freshman right side hitter Mya Wilson and sophomore outside hitter Maddie Bryant adding a combined 13 kills and five blocks, while senior outside hitter Carly Turner contributed seven kills.

Junior libero Landon Jones led the match with 17 digs, while the Bison were held to a .207 hitting percentage compared to the Eagles’ .219.

“I’m proud of the way we came out of the gate tonight,” Willis said. “We spent the short week really focusing on first contact, and it showed this afternoon. I thought we did a great job of pressuring from the service line and taking care of our priorities defensively.”

In the second game of the tournament, GS could not keep the momentum going as they fell to Tennessee, 3-0. The Volunteers hit 0.400 in the match and held the Eagles to .133.

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BY CHUCK PAGGETT
The George-Anne staff

Being a first generation college student is a title that a number of people can relate to. One of those people is junior Alhaji Tambadu, a native of Sierra Leone and a breakout player for the Georgia Southern men’s soccer team.

In his third year with the Eagles, Tambadu has proven himself to be a valuable teammate on the field as the team’s leading goal-scorer on four so far.

As a middle child of four, he developed his love for soccer at an early age back in his home country but the family set their sights on something bigger.

“My mom moved here before us, but I came here on November 22, 2012,” Tambadu said. “Moving down here was really good. It was a good opportunity for me and my family...to better ourselves.”

In the years since the family moved to Stone Mountain, Georgia, he has accomplished a lot through the game he loves but remains humble and tries to keep it that way.

Having only played a year of high school soccer, Tambadu established his name playing club soccer for DDYSC in Atlanta as a youth.

He received a tryout from the Atlanta United development academy after being spotted with his previous club and made the team.

“I was playing there for a year and a half and it was [a] really good moment for me to develop myself as a player,” Tambadu said. “Playing for Atlanta United made me a better player and then [I] learned a lot of things from there before coming to college.”

But soccer is not his only love, Tambadu spoke glowingly about his other passion—cooking.

“I love cooking, mostly I’ll cook African food like fufu, rice and chicken, and all types of other food,” Tambadu said. “When I have a game, I like eating rice and chicken because that’s my favorite meal.”

Tambadu has a strong relationship with his teammates and they are constantly cooking with each other and finding ways to bond.

To get ready for a game, the 20-year-old has pregame rituals that get him ready for the action.

“Mostly I like to listen to Chris Brown songs because he’s my favorite artist,” Tambadu said. “You know African people we like dancing, it makes me dance and put a smile on everybody’s face before the game.”

The Sierra Leone native had a smile on his face after scoring his first career goal, then two more, on his way to being named the Sun Belt offensive Player of the Week and Akronelsinki Match of the Week in the opening week of the season.

Tambadu said that has been one of the greatest moments in his collegiate career and one he’ll never forget.

“I used to play defensive midfield,” he said. “So for me, pushing in front and then playing, attacking mid and then scoring my first goal for Georgia Southern was [a] really, really good moment for me and I was really excited about it.”

When he’s not scoring goals on gameday, Tambadu has enjoyed his time off the field in the city of Statesboro with his teammates.

“When I was in Sierra Leone, I lived in a small village which is probably not the same size as Statesboro,” he said. “It doesn’t really bother me, I like it here a lot.”

He has a strong support system in his family, who have played a strong role in making him the man he is today. They are constantly motivating him to be the best person he can be, on and off the field.

“Every time I think about my family and think about my mom it makes me work hard,” Tambadu said. “And, also when I think [about] where I came from, that also makes me keep working hard because I came from nothing and I want to make something for myself and my family.”

Tambadu’s favorite soccer team is Arsenal, a team based in London, England that plays in the Premier League.

He said that maybe one day if he continues to improve himself, he’d love to play for them.

If playing professional soccer isn’t in the cards for Tambadu, the interdisciplinary studies major still would love to be apart of the game.

“I’ll probably try to be a coach, help other kids to develop their skills of soccer and help other people become better players,” Tambadu said.

His current head coach, John Murphy, has done just that for him on and off the field.

“He goes hard at me to make me a better person and a better player,” Tambadu said. “Always asking about my feelings, he’s always checking on me. He’s a really good guy and I’m really happy to have him on my side.”

Through ups and downs of the season so far, Tambadu’s current focus is clear: win the Sun Belt title that eluded last year’s GS team.

“(This year, we really want to win our conference and we have a really, really good team this year,” Tambadu said. “We’re willing to work hard and bring the trophy home. That’s our goal this year.”

The Georgia Southern women’s soccer team defeated Coastal Carolina and tied with Little Rock over the course of the weekend.

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern women’s soccer team added a win and a tie to their overall record for the first weekend of conference play, improving to 4-4-1.

On Friday, GS defeated Coastal Carolina, 1-0, in the last minute of play with a goal from sophomore midfielder Brooke Barrett, who was assisted by freshman midfielder Karin Winka.

The highly defensive game did not allow any goals from either team and only five shots on goal were taken overall.

Senior goalkeeper Lauren Karinshak added her second shutout of the season with the victory, with the other in last month’s victory over The Citadel last month.

Both teams recorded two saves, but the Chanticleers had eight fouls, seven of which were in the second half.

In the first half, CCU maintained possession of the ball and pushed out a strong offensive front. GS responded with tight defense, and did not allow any goals through their seven attempts.

GS came out aggressive in the second half and outshot the Chanticleers 8-5 in the remaining time. Barrett took the ball in the final minute from a CCU forward and made the game-winning goal as she outplayed the defense.

On Sunday, GS played Little Rock in a competitive double-overtime thriller, which resulted in a tie. In the first half, the Trojans set a rapid pace of play in the first ten minutes which forced GS to adjust.

About halfway through the first period, GS found an offensive rhythm and started attacking the goal. They took five shots compared to none by the Trojans until the half.

In the second half, made the most shot attempts of the season, totaling seven up until the end of regulation. There were several that were almost successful but none made it all the way into the net.

“To outshoot a team 16-2 [and] to have decent effort on goal, you’ve got to put one away,” Head coach Josh Moffet said. “You can’t fault the work rate...Defensively, [they] were tremendous as a team.”

Senior forward Frida Bramt and junior forward Bregan Boudreau led GS with two goals on goal, while ten Eagles took shots.

Little Rock’s redshirt freshman goalie Julia Curatolo notched eight saves, while senior goalie Lauren Karinshak had one save for GS.

“I’m happy with the performance,” Moffet said. “I’m not happy with the result...In the attack, we were good, we just lacked that critical touching in the box.”

In overtime, neither team could get on the board. Little Rock helds a 3-5-3 record and 0-1 conference record.

GS has a 1-0-1 conference record going into Sunday’s match on the road at Appalachian State.
PREVIEW: EAGLE OFFENSE LOOKING TO BOUNCE BACK AND START CONFERENCE SLATE STRONG

KIELL SELLUS/UGA

The Eagles start conference play with a 1-0 record.

The Georgia Southern football team will open up conference play against the Louisiana Ragin’ Cajuns on Saturday, being slated as a three-point underdog. Louisiana has seen quite a successful season so far, having the momentum of a winning streak on their side as they travel to Paulson. The Ragin’ Cajuns have already put up impressive numbers, being ranked third nationally in rushing yards per game (323.8) and fourth nationally in total offense.

"Obviously, they were a good football team last year, bringing the western side champs in the Sun Belt and playing in the championship game," Head Coach Chad Lunsford said. "I see an offensive line that really likes to come off the ball and establish a run. They have two or three running backs that are really good."

Set to start in the running back position for UL are either senior Raymond Calais, junior Elijah Mitchell or redshirt-junior Trey Ragas. Ragas has taken on some action against Arkansas State at home on Saturday.

Quarterback-wise the Eagle defense can expect and prepare for Levi Lewis, who is a double threat as he finds success in both throwing the ball and running with it. "Levi is very athletic, can throw and run," Lunsford said.

"And you know that usually surfaces problems when you have a quarterback that can do both."

The senior has thrown seven touchdowns and rushed for 198 yards and one pass breakup.

The Ragin’ Cajuns have also been on the defensive end, junior linebacker Cincere Evans also notched a rushing touchdown returned for 19 yards, one fumble, a fumble recovery and four solo tackles against Coastal Carolina.

The Georgia Southern defense has been on the defensive end, junior linebacker Cincere Evans also notched a rushing touchdown returned for 19 yards, one fumble, a fumble recovery and four solo tackles against Coastal Carolina.

The Ragin’ Cajuns are looking to bring their winning streak to three. The team has won three in a row after sealing a 72-20 win against Troy at Troy on Saturday.

"We had three practices last week, started our game prep [Sunday] night for Louisiana, and the guys energy level was way up there. This is definitely a positive football team that has a lot of hurt right now." Lunsford said.

"While most of the team is ready to hit the field, there are still concerns about the question of who will be filling the role of the quarterback. Either redshirt-junior Shai Werts or redshirt-freshman Justin Tomlin are projected to start, and it depends on Werts’ day-to-day injury status."

"I was impressed with Shai last week," Lunsford said. "During the bye week practices, we slowly progressed him in. Everything we were asking him to do, he was able to do it. (Sunday) night, he looked sharp. (Tuesday) from practice to Wednesday will be very telling."

Tomlin is leading the team with 193 rushing yards and 162 passing yards so far on the season. He has also rushed for two touchdowns and averages 6.7 yards per carry.

The GS defense is also ready to get back under those stabilizing lights and continue to perform the way they have this season. The defense has more than proven they are a force to be reckoned with after putting up two defensive touchdowns on Power 5 school Minnesota.

Someone who hasn’t had too much action into the season expecting a lot is senior cornerback Kindle Vidor. He hasn’t shown much notable action, only logging three tackles on the season and one pass breakup.

Facing off against UL, this could be an opportunity for Vidor to step it up, especially since they’ve pass heavy team.

The Ragin’ Cajuns have added DB Josh Billingsley led Troy in rushing with 100 yards as well as rushing for a touchdown. Defensively, he also had two pass deflections. Quarterback-wise the Eagle defense will have its work cut out for them. Senior quarterback Kaleb Barker threw for 214 yards on the night as well as throwing for three touchdowns, but did end up throwing an interception.

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