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Georgia Southern University Athletics



Steve Patterson to Participate in APEX Career Speaker Series

The director of the Georgia Southern athletic training program will speak to the swimming and diving team.

APEX

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STATESBORO – Steve Patterson, the director of the Georgia Southern University athletic training program, is scheduled to speak to the swimming and diving team via Zoom Thursday night as part of the APEX (Athletes Preparing for Employment Experiences) Career Speaker Series.

Patterson earned his bachelor's degree from Vanguard University of Southern California, a master's in counseling psychology with an emphasis in sport injury from Palm Beach Atlantic University and an EdD in health care education from Nova Southeastern University. He spent 10 years working clinically as an athletic trainer at the collegiate level prior to moving into education and is in his ninth year as the director of the athletic training program at Georgia Southern University. Patterson served as the athletic trainer for USA Baseball for two World Championships and spent 12 years overall working with the governing body. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia and is on the executive committee for the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association.

The Career Speaker Series is an ongoing event throughout the academic year. Through a partnership with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, student-athletes from each athletics program choose a topic and date for their speaker, and the APEX program coordinates a 45-minute meeting via Zoom with a professional in the chosen career through its Eagle Outreach Program. Speakers will talk about the process to obtain a career in their field and the necessary skill set required to excel. Examples of careers discussed are Banking/Finance, Real Estate, Marketing/Sales, Criminal Justice, Entrepreneurship, Business/Corporate America, Accounting and Construction.

The Career Speaker series is another component of the APEX programming curriculum designed to help prepare Georgia Southern student athletes for the ultimate challenge after their playing careers- life. Led by Senior Associate Athletics Director Student-Athlete Development [Gleen Hart](#) and Senior Associate Athletics Director for Administration [Tracy Ham](#), the APEX program fosters the holistic growth of all Georgia Southern student-athletes based on four pillars: life skills, leadership development, career growth and community engagement. The vision statement of the program is to "develop confident and independent leaders to win in their careers, communities and households."