

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Athletics News

Athletics

10-29-2018

Sixteen New Champion Society Members are Honored

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/athletics-news-online>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Athletics at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Athletics News by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University Athletics



L-R: Chris Dalzell, Justin Harvey, Delan and Brandi Gaines, Ray and Jodi Driggers, Stephen and Sharon Milner, Walt Huggins, Alex Speight, Dan Speight and Dr. Sharkey

Sixteen New Champion Society Members are Honored

With sixteen new members, the highest giving level of the Eagle Fund continues to grow

Stephanie Arends Neal

Athletic Foundation

Posted: 10/29/2018 12:01:00 PM

STATESBORO, Ga - The Eagle Football game against Appalachian State on October 25, 2018, was historic in more ways than one. Not only did Eagle Football beat the longtime rival but a record-breaking number of donors received their Champion Society jacket during the half.

The Champion Society leads in the fundraising effort for the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation's Eagle Fund. Comprised of members who support the University's athletics and its student-athletes, these members commit to providing long-term support.

So far this year, 16 Champion Society memberships have been established in support of Eagle excellence: Chris Dalzell and Justin Harvey, Delan and Brandi Gaines, Stephen and Sharon Milner, Nevil Tire, Dr. Sharkey with Georgia Dermatology, Robby and Dan Speight and Walt Huggins, along with five anonymous donors.

As a five-year commitment, Champion Society members pledge a minimum of \$50,000 to the Eagle Fund to help provide the funds necessary for student-athletes to attend Georgia Southern University. To honor their commitment to Georgia Southern Athletics, members of the Champion Society receive a Champion Society jacket custom tailored by the Sir Shop in Dublin, Georgia.

New members joined current members Sandra and Leonard Bevill, Julian and Frances Deal, Ray and Jodi Driggers of D&R Car Care, Bill Geddy and Brent Myers, Matt and Linda Hube, Phil and Cindy Moore, Michael and Danna Sanders, Trey and Emily Sheppard, David and Lori Sigler, Gene and Margaret Smith, Billy Hickman and Doug Lambert of Southeastern Hospitality Services, Anthony Tippins and Stephen Wheelles.

With this year's additions, the Champion Society is now made up of 39 active members. Since the inception of the Champion Society, over \$1,400,000 has been generated in pledges to the Eagle Fund.

The 16 new Champion Society members were recognized during an on-field presentation where they received their exclusive Champion Society jackets from Athletic Director [Tom Kleinlein](#) alongside current members of the Champion Society, University President Shelley Nickel and the Athletic Foundation's [Sally Scott](#).

Ray and Jodi Driggers, who committed to the Champion Society in 2017, were also jacketed on-field at the game.

"With 39 members, the Champion Society has grown exponentially, considering it with just five members only three years ago. We are grateful for commitment to the

Eagle Fund made by these members. Their contributions will make a considerable impact on the program's development and future successes of student-athletes by helping fund academic scholarships," said [Tom Kleinlein](#), director of athletics.

The Eagle Fund is the annual scholarship fund for Georgia Southern Athletics. Contributions to this annual fund support the nearly 400 student-athletes who play in one of the 17 Division I varsity programs. The generosity and support made by Eagle Fund contributors guarantee the success of Georgia Southern athletes for years to come.

Consider becoming an Eagle Fund member to help 'Build the Nest.' Memberships start at \$120 per year. By joining, members ensure the continued success of Georgia Southern's current and future student-athletes in competition, in the classroom and in life.

To learn more about the Eagle Fund, contact the Athletic Foundation at 1(800)GSU-WINS or visit GSEagles.com/EagleFund. The Athletic Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. All gifts made to the Athletic Foundation are tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law.

The Athletic Foundation provides current information through its official website, GSEagles.com/Foundation. Information on giving opportunities can also be found through social media channels Facebook.com/GSUAF or Twitter.com/GSUAF or by contacting the Foundation directly at 1(800)GSU-WINS (call/text) and AthleticFoundation@GeorgiaSouthern.edu (email).

Rings, Diplomas & Leaders

The Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation's primary goal is to provide our student-athletes with the opportunity to compete for a championship ring and earn a college education while developing them as future leaders in their respective communities.

The mission of the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation, Inc. is to provide private financial support for athletic scholarships, facilities and staff enhancement for the Athletic Department of Georgia Southern University. All of the activities of the Athletic Foundation are conducted with the highest regard for academic and athletic excellence and within the guidelines established by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, conference affiliations and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Copyright ©2021 Georgia Southern University Athletics