

# Herty AMDC Part of Winning Team – Composites Manufacturing Institute

JANUARY 26, 2015

**Herty AMDC becomes a founding member of the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation, U.S. Department of Energy awards \$70 million grant**



The Herty Advanced Materials Development Center (AMDC), an applied research center of [Georgia Southern University](#), is pleased to announce that it is a founding member of a new national research institute created under the [National Network for Manufacturing Innovation](#) (NNMI).

The new institute, the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI), was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy

(DOE) to develop better composite materials and technologies for rapid deployment within the automotive, wind turbine and compressed gas storage industries. Partners in the new institute include the DOE and a consortium of 122 companies, nonprofits and universities that will invest more than \$250 million to advance the development of low-cost, high-performance composites.

“Lighter, stronger materials are key to increasing energy efficiency and fuel economy,” said Dr. Walter Chappas, director of Advanced Materials at Herty AMDC. “Herty has considerable experience in the design and production of composite materials so we are very excited be part of this national effort and contributing our expertise to this endeavor.”

The new institute, announced by President Obama, will focus on advanced fiber-reinforced polymer composites that combine strong fibers with tough plastics to yield materials that are lighter and stronger than steel. While advanced composites are used in selective industries such as aircraft, military vehicles, satellites and luxury cars, these materials remain expensive, require large amounts of energy to manufacture and are difficult to recycle. IACMI is dedicated to overcoming these barriers by developing low-cost, high-production, energy-efficient manufacturing and recycling processes for composites applications.

“Being a partner in this national network allows us to collaborate with other leading technology providers to solve real world problems and to create the manufacturing platforms of the future,”

said Alexander A. Koukoulas, president and CEO of Herty AMDC. "Our participation also allows us to showcase the R&D and manufacturing capabilities here in Georgia and the expertise that our organization can bring to this national initiative."

IACMI is the fifth named Institute and became another important step toward fulfilling the President's vision of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). The public-private partnership was selected through a competitive process led by the Advanced Manufacturing Office within the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Among the 57 corporate partners are: Adherent Technologies, Inc.; Altair; Ashland Performance Materials; BASF Company; Boeing Company; Celanese International; Dow Chemical Company; DuPont; Ford Motor Company; GE Water & Power; Honda R&D Americas, Inc.; Johns Manville; Lockheed Martin; Materials Innovation Technologies; Owens Corning; PPG Industries, Inc.; and Volkswagen.

Key University Partners include: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Colorado School of Mines; Colorado State University; Iowa State University; Michigan State University; Mississippi State University; National Renewable Energy Laboratory; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Purdue University; The Ohio State University; University of Colorado-Boulder; University of Dayton Research Institute; University of Kentucky; University of Michigan; and Vanderbilt University.

#### About Herty

The Herty Advanced Materials Development Center, an applied research center of Georgia Southern University, is a world-class research, development, and demonstration facility. Herty is a new product and process accelerator providing technical, market, and development expertise in short-fiber composites, biomaterials, and biomass processing. Herty's expertise and extensive pilot-scale capabilities for prototyping new products help companies de-risk the commercialization process.

Visit: [www.herty.com](http://www.herty.com).

#### About Georgia Southern University

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.

Tags: [Herty Advanced Materials Development Center](#), [Research](#), [Sustainability](#)

# Ranger Challenge Team Finishes Fourth in National Contest

JANUARY 28, 2015







The Georgia Southern University Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team participated in the 6th Brigade Army ROTC Ranger Challenge Competition held at Camp Blanding, Florida, Jan. 23-24 where they competed against 55 other teams from across the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico.

The Eagle Battalion placed fourth overall and won first in both the hand grenades and obstacle course events. The team also had top five finishes in the 4-mile road march, zodiac boat and overall time events. The team ran nearly 30 miles in the two-day competition while also participating in the marksmanship, triage, rope ridge and Commander's Challenge events. The event stations are set up along a course and can be several miles apart, requiring the group to run the entire course from one event to another.

"The Georgia Southern Ranger Challenge Team performed as expected. They maintained a high level of performance and ran the entire course on both days which covered close to 30 miles with their personally assigned equipment," said team coach Master Sergeant Tim Parks. "The team placed fourth overall, and they are excited to begin training next semester for a competition that has been pulled back from January 2016 to October 2015. We are extremely proud of the effort they put into the past few months. There is no doubt in my mind that they will continue to perform to the highest standards and have the heart to win next year's competition."

The Cadets began training in August with 5 a.m. workouts regardless of weather, in addition to weekend and evening training. Training activities included running with rucksacks, extreme endurance training, swimming and marksmanship.

"Academics come first, but when they are not in class or studying, these Cadets are putting everything they have into this team. This competition is made to push them to their limits, both

physically and mentally,” said Allison Rainey, senior administrative assistant for the Military Science Department.

This year’s team members include: Charlie Witkowski (Captain), David Adler, Luc Aviles (Alternate), Thomas Bird, Benjamin Deen, Richard Fischl, Bradley Holmes, Hunter Scholle (Alternate), Michael Schuman, Ale Shortridge, Andy Zipp and Coach MSG Tim Parks.

Georgia Southern won first place in the competition in 2013, and placed second in 2014 finishing behind Florida State University. The winning team from each brigade goes on to represent their brigade at the international Sandhurst Competition at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

For more photos of the event, visit the [Georgia Southern University Army ROTC Facebook page](#).

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Tags: [ROTC](#)

# Georgia Southern University Professor Makes Connections in TEDx Talk

FEBRUARY 2, 2015



*Fayth Parks, Ph.D, a psychologist and professor at Georgia Southern University, speaks at the TEDx Augusta Talks over the weekend.*

Seventeen speakers presented the “talk of their lives in 18 minutes or less” over the weekend during the second annual TEDx Augusta Talks in Augusta, Georgia. Fayth Parks, Ph.D, a psychologist and professor at Georgia Southern University was among those speakers and presented the connection between modern medicine and cultural traditions. Here at My News, we caught up with Parks to get more insight into her talk.



*Fayth Parks, Ph.D.*

How were you selected to be part of this TEDx Talk?

*TEDx Augusta organizers vetted dozens of speakers. I’m honored to have been selected.*

The theme of your Talk is connecting modern medicine with cultural traditions. What inspired this connection?

*I study healing traditions as a cultural group's belief system and coping strategies. Generally, these beliefs and practices are woven into narratives that give people meaning and order in healing and recovery. I've written scholarly publications and given numerous lectures and presentations on this topic.*

What kind of experience do you have in working with this topic?

*I have over 25 years of experience in academic and community settings with special interest in mental health service access in rural communities, poverty, cultural and linguistic competency and bridging the health disparities gap. I'm founding chair of the Rural HIV Research and Training Conference at Georgia Southern held annually. Recently, I was appointed to the American Psychological Association's ad hoc Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA). COPA's mission is to guide the development and implementation of APA's organizational response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2009, I was honored to be appointed a David B. Larson Fellow in Health and Spirituality in The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. I'm passionate about empowering health professionals and the general public with the knowledge and skills to promote a culture of health for all Americans.*

What do you hope listeners gained from your talk?

*Conventional medicine minimizes cultural formulations as legitimate partners. However, there are connections between cultural practices and modern medicine. I shared my personal journey, and from my research, an age-old blueprint for harnessing personal strengths that contribute to our human potential for powerful responses to disease and illness.*

How long have you been a professor at Georgia Southern?

*I've been at Georgia Southern for 11 years. I'm a licensed psychologist and associate professor in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development, College of Education.*

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# Eagle QuaRC to Host Spring Speaker Series

JANUARY 28, 2015



Georgia Southern faculty are invited to participate in the Eagle QuaRC Spring Speaker Series that will be hosted three times during the Spring 2015 semester.

The purpose of the series is to highlight qualitative research on campus by having interested faculty speak on their approach to qualitative research. Through the speaker series, Eagle QuaRC also hopes to engage faculty, staff and students in dialogue and learning related to qualitative research, as well as continuing to build a generative community of qualitative researchers on campus.

Dr. Charles "Hal" Wilson Jr., will kick off the spring speaker series on Feb. 11 from noon-1 p.m. in the

Center for Teaching and Technology (CT2). The other spring dates of March 11 and April 8 are open. If faculty members are interested in speaking, they are invited to submit a brief proposal. The deadline to submit a proposal is Feb. 10 and can be submitted through the following link:

<http://goo.gl/nDtfvQ>

For more information about QuaRC, visit [research.georgiasouthern.edu/quarc](http://research.georgiasouthern.edu/quarc), or contact Amelia Davis at [adavis@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:adavis@georgiasouthern.edu).

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