

Georgia Southern Introduces Willie Fritz as New Football Coach

JANUARY 10, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Georgia Southern Director of Athletics Tom Kleinlein today announced the hiring of Willie Fritz as the ninth head football coach in the program’s modern history. A proven winner with more than 30 years of coaching experience, Fritz led Sam Houston State to back-to-back Southland Conference titles, NCAA FCS championship appearances in 2011 and 2012 and a



third-straight playoff berth this past year. In 21 years as a head coach, Fritz owns a 72.3 winning percentage with a record of 176-67-1 and more than a few trophies for his accomplishments at the national, regional and conference levels.

The Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year at the FCS level in 2012, Fritz was recognized nationally in 2011 as the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Coach of the Year. Honored as the AFCA Regional Coach of the Year in 2011 and 2012, Fritz was selected by the media and his peers in the Southland Conference as the league’s Coach of the Year in 2011 after his team went a perfect 7-0 in conference play.

In 2011 and 2012, Sam Houston State posted the two highest

single-season win totals in program history with marks of 14-1 (2011) and 11-4 (2012) and Bearkat

players were showered with accolades. More than 50 earned All-Southland Conference honors under Fritz in the last four years, not including additional "Player of the Year," "Offensive Player of the Year," "Defensive Player of the Year," and "Newcomer of the Year" awards. All-America status from national coaching and media outlets were bestowed on 11 Sam Houston State players during his tenure.

Fritz comes to Georgia Southern after four years as the head coach of the Bearkats and his most recent of three total tours in Huntsville. His resume includes a wealth of experience across the board, notably as a coach with an innate ability to connect with his players, demand accountability and build winning programs.

After a highly successful tenure at Blinn College, averaging nearly 10 wins a season during his four years there, Fritz left to revitalize a Central Missouri program and guided it to 11 winning seasons. The NCAA Division II program's ledger included two 10-win seasons with the 2001 Mule squad earning its first postseason trip in more than 30 years. In 2002, Central Missouri made its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs and was the Mid-America Athletic Association (MIAA) co-champion a year later. A 97-47 mark in 13 seasons ranks Fritz as the winningest coach in the program's 118-year history. He was the only coach to ever win seven or more games in eight consecutive seasons and his victory total ranked him 15th among active Division II coaches at the time.

In addition to his impressive 67.4 winning percentage with the Mules, Fritz coached his student-athletes to achieve their potential both on the field and in the classroom. More than 150 Mules were recognized with All-MIAA honors with 41 first-team selections and 24 All-Americans. Under Fritz, Central Missouri recorded a graduation rate of 84 percent with 144 MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll recipients, 14 Academic All-Region and three Academic All-Americans.

Serving as a graduate assistant for the Bearkat program during the 1984 and 1985 seasons, Fritz earned a master's degree in kinesiology while Sam Houston State posted a 16-6 record and won the 1985 Gulf Star Conference championship. He returned to Huntsville in 1991 after spending two years at Coffeyville College in Kansas under legendary Coach Dick Foster, earning a promotion to defensive coordinator after one year. He stayed another two years to work for Coach Skip Foster and the Red Ravens.

"I knew immediately when I interviewed him that I wanted to hire Willie," said Coach Dick Foster, a charter member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Football Hall of Fame. "He's a talented person and I've followed his career closely, from Central Missouri and to Blinn where he coached two national championships, to what he has done at Sam Houston State. He has all the qualities needed for the challenge in front of him – he's an excellent technician, an

outstanding recruiter, very organized with his coaching and support staff and his student-athletes enjoy playing for him.”

Coach Bob Randleman brought Fritz back to the state of Texas and Sam Houston State as secondary and special teams coach in 1991, instilling an attitude of excellence on special teams that would last more than a decade. The Bearkats’ “block party” racked up 80 blocked punts, field goals and extra points beginning with Fritz in 1991 and lasting through 2004. In Fritz’s first year as a full-time assistant coach at Sam Houston State in 1991, the Bearkats won the Southland Conference. That league title and eight-win season launched SHSU to the program’s second-ever appearance in the NCAA playoffs.

“Willie was like a coach on the field for me as a four-year starter at Pittsburg State,” Coach Randleman said. “I just think the world of him and am proud that he was on my coaching staff not once, but twice. He has a tremendous work ethic, he played hard, and he coaches the same way. Willie has a great rapport with his players and they respect him.”

Fritz would leave Huntsville again, this time for an opportunity to be the head coach at Blinn College, where he would turn around a program that had only five wins in its previous three seasons. From 1993-96, Fritz and the Buccaneers would rack up 39 victories against only five losses with a tie and claim two national junior college championships. He was inducted into the NJCAA Football Hall of Fame for the environment of success he created at Blinn.

One of seven children, Fritz is the son of the late Harry Fritz, who coached the Central Missouri football team in 1952 before continuing his career as the Executive Director at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in Kansas City. The elder Fritz also served at several colleges and universities in administration as an athletics director.

Fritz played on two conference title teams and was a four-starter at defensive back for Coach Randleman at Pittsburg State and remained at his alma mater as a student assistant coach for his alma mater in 1982. Early coaching stops included a year at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School (Kansas) in 1983 and Willis High School (Texas) in 1986, with his return to Sam Houston State for graduate school in between those years.

Fritz and his wife Susan have three children, Wesley and Elaine, who are enrolled at Sam Houston State, and Brooke, a junior in high school in Huntsville.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels facebook.com/GSATHletics and twitter.com/GSATHletics, and its “Eagles GATA” mobile app.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,000 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 approach to education.

Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Tags: [Athletics](#)

Georgia Southern Recognized Among Nation's Best Online Programs

JANUARY 11, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Georgia Southern University is home to some of the nation's best online education programs according to the "2014 Best Online Programs" list from U.S. News & World Report. For the third consecutive year, the University was recognized for giving students the freedom and flexibility to help them earn degrees on their own time while balancing careers, families and other commitments.



U.S. News surveyed nearly a thousand colleges and universities that offer online degrees. Here are the rankings for Georgia Southern:

Best online graduate computer information technology programs (#23)

Best online graduate education programs (#50)

Best online graduate business programs (#64)

Best online bachelor's programs (#160)

"Once again, Georgia Southern University is proud to be recognized for its top ranked programs," said Provost Jean Bartels, Ph.D. "Faculty in all programs are recognized for their dedicated efforts to create and administer the best of online education to students both in state and beyond. Broadening the reach of a Georgia Southern education has been a goal, now recognized, for the University."

The third annual survey examined a variety of areas including student engagement, student services and technology, faculty credentials and training, admissions selectivity and peer reputation. The rankings cover online bachelor's degrees and online master's degrees in engineering, nursing, education, computer information technology and business.



"Our College is relentlessly pushing to create greater quality and value for our graduates, alumni and business partners," said College of Business Administration Dean Allen Amason, Ph.D. "This is the underlying value added that rankings are meant to reflect. So, we are

gratified to see our hard work appreciated and having the impact that we desire.”

According to U.S. News, only degree-granting programs offering courses that are 100 percent online were considered for the rankings. “We’re pleased to be in the top tier, said College of Education Dean Thomas R. Koballa, Jr., Ph.D. “Our online classes meet high standards for excellence. We have a committed faculty trained to teach distance learners, and students from across the region and state know they will be engaged in a rigorous graduate program that furthers their career as an educator in many professional settings.”

See the list of “Best Online Programs” by visiting www.usnews.com/education/online-education.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,000 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 approach to education.

Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Health Services Achieves AAAHC Accreditation

JANUARY 14, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Georgia Southern University has been recognized for providing outstanding and high-quality medical care to students. Health Services has received accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) after an extensive self-assessment and on-site survey.



Among private and public colleges and universities in the state, Georgia Southern is one of only three accredited by AAAHC. Georgia Tech and Emory are the other two. Health Services is also the only non-surgical primary care center in the region including private primary care offices to receive the AAAHC accreditation. The organization also recognized Georgia Southern as a certified Patient Centered Medical Home providing comprehensive proactive, preventive and chronic care management and treatment.



Dr. Brian DeLoach talks with a patient at Georgia Southern University Health Services.

“This designation proves our facility and medical professionals meet and exceed nationally recognized standards when it comes to taking care of Georgia Southern students,” said Medical Director Dr. Brian DeLoach. “This provides external validation that we are

providing safe, high-quality care and hold ourselves to the highest standards regarding the care that we deliver.”

Health Services has adopted the slogan Your Medical Home Away from Home to describe daily efforts made to meet the health and wellness needs of more than 20,000 students. “We believe our patients deserve the best,” explained DeLoach. “We are constantly looking to find better ways to serve our patients, and this is a reminder that our responsibility is to strive to continuously improve the quality of care we provide.”

The surveyors noted the facility is undersized and outdated but were amazed that DeLoach and the staff have been able to do so much with so little. A bigger, state-of-the-art facility is coming. University Health Services is now in the design phase of a new \$10 million facility that will be built at the corner of Chandler Road and Plant Drive. It is expected to open in mid-2015.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,000 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 approach to education.

Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.



Softball Has Best Fall Semester in Program History

Eagles finish semester with 3.492 team GPA



1/6/2014 9:45:00 AM

STATESBORO, GA. – Georgia Southern Softball posted its best fall semester, in the classroom, in program history with a 3.492 team GPA. The Eagles were outstanding academically with 17 of 20 student-athletes recording a semester GPA over 3.0.

Overall, five student-athletes appeared on the President's List with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Another six players finished the semester on the Dean's List and a GPA over 3.5.

Georgia Southern Softball opens the 2014 campaign on Friday, February 7th, at 5 p.m. in the Eagle Round Robin against Oakland. The Eagles also face Tennessee and Northern Colorado in the

tournament which spans the entire weekend at Eagle Field.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels facebook.com/GSATHletics and twitter.com/GSATHletics.

Andrew Young to Speak at MLK Celebration

JANUARY 1, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Andrew Young will be the featured speaker at Georgia Southern University's 2014 MLK Celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center (PAC), 847 Plant Drive. The annual celebration to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the University's Multicultural Student Center.



Andrew Young will speak at Georgia Southern's MLK Celebration on Jan. 22.

Andrew Young has led a lifetime of public service and worked tirelessly to improve human and civil rights around the world. He has served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, U.S. Congressman and Atlanta Mayor. He is a best-selling author and an Emmy-nominated television show producer of "Andrew Young Presents" through the Andrew Young Foundation which works to end racism, war and poverty.

"Our students were drawn to his significance in the civil rights era of Dr. King, and they made Andrew Young their choice to serve as this year's speaker," said Dorsey Baldwin, the director of Georgia Southern's Multicultural

Student Center. "Since Andrew Young has an amazing body of work in civil rights along with his success in the public sector and politics, he has an inspiring story to share. This is a great educational opportunity for our students and our University."

There will be a new addition to this year's MLK Celebration. Georgia Southern students will participate in an essay contest that will focus on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. "This will be an evening for our students, faculty, staff and community to hear about the civil rights movement firsthand from someone who made history," said Baldwin.

This is a free event, and tickets will not be distributed; however, seating is limited. Doors open at 6 p.m. and close at 6:45 p.m.

If you are interested in asking Andrew Young a question after his speech, tweet #askAndrewYoung or email the question to msc@georgiasouthern.edu with "Ask Andrew Young" in the subject line.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,000 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 approach to education.

Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.