

University Community to Get New MyGeorgiaSouthern on May 13

APRIL 28, 2015

The old familiar MyGeorgiaSouthern website has served the University community well for many years but the time has come for an overhaul. Many in the University community have already been using the MyGeorgiaSouthern preview and the reviews have been very good. The new MyGeorgiaSouthern is now ready to be unveiled to the entire University.

On Wednesday, May 13, at noon the old MyGeorgiaSouthern site will be retired and the new site will take its place. From that point forward, each time you log in to MyGeorgiaSouthern you will experience the new look and feel.

Here are some of the improvements included in the new design:

Similar items have been grouped together in tiles to make finding information and links easier.

Modern look and feel that looks great on smartphones and tablets.

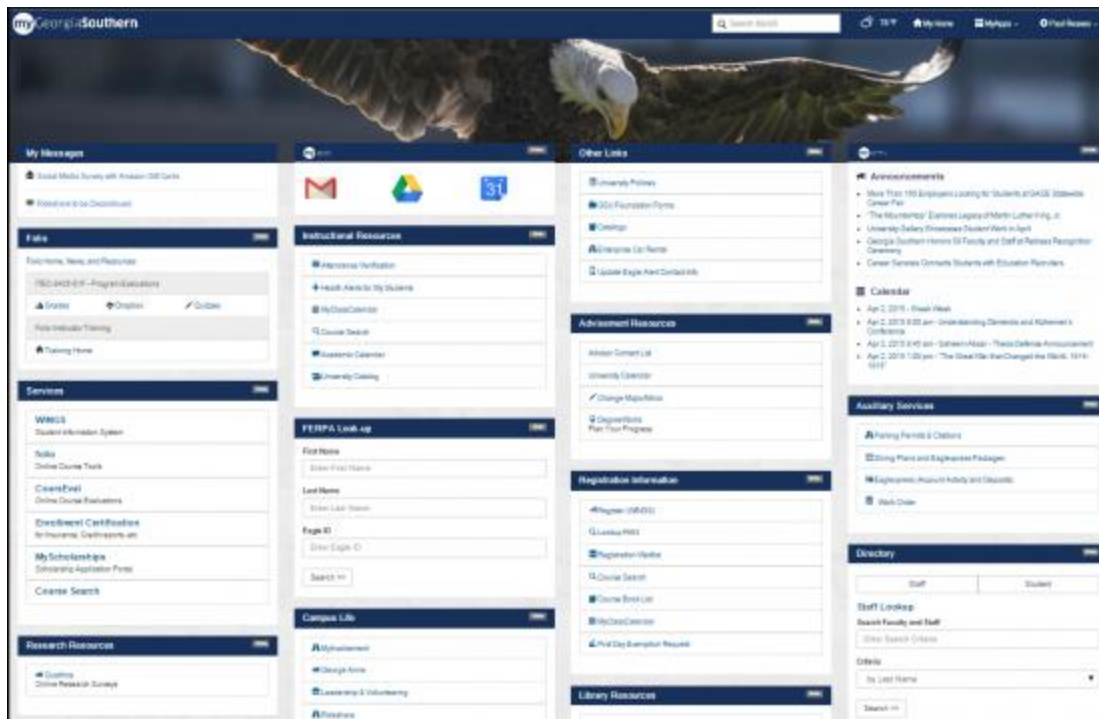
The Folio tile allows faculty and students to click directly on Folio links within the courses they are taking or teaching.

The Instructional Resources tile is alongside the Folio tile and gives access to Attendance Verification, Course Search, and the Academic Calendar.

Getting to account settings is much more convenient now with a top menu bar with links to these and the local weather.

Google GMail, Drive, and Calendar can be found in the top menu bar as well as in the MyApps tile.

Click on the image to see a larger view of the new MyGeorgiaSouthern.



Representative view of the new MyGeorgiaSouthern

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A brighter, cleaner future

MAY 11, 2015

Georgia Southern graduate student wins fellowship to study renewable energy



Martin Muinos (left) works with Val Soloiu, Ph.D., on a high speed data acquisition system able to detect minute amounts of soot in engine exhaust — part of Muinos' Reactivity Controlled Compression Ignition research project for the National Science Foundation.

He's published four peer-reviewed papers, three of which were presented at the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) World Congress. He's done research which hasn't been tried anywhere else in the world and he won two different research grants to do them. He's part of a laboratory attempting to steer the automotive industry closer to renewable energy sources.

And he did it all as an undergraduate student at Georgia Southern University.

Martin Muinos is currently finishing his first semester in the Master of Science in Applied Engineering program with a concentration in Energy Science. Even though he's only begun his graduate studies, for the last two-and-a-half years he's been a researcher in Georgia Southern's [Renewable Energy and Engines Laboratory \(REEL\)](#), the most advanced of its kind in the Southeast, and the only one of

its kind in the nation with undergraduate researchers. He says he can't imagine getting to do the work he's done anywhere else.

"If we were to visit a research facility conducting similar research anywhere in the United States, we would be surrounded by post-docs, Ph.D.'s, and grad students," said Muinos. "In the Engine Combustion and Emissions lab at Georgia Southern, I am one of three graduate students working under the supervision of one professor and working alongside 15-20 undergraduate students."

At the laboratory, Muinos has been conducting experiments in Low Temperature Combustion through Reactivity Controlled Compression Ignition (RCCI) with renewable fuels such as biodiesel, and butanol: fuels made from biomass. The process of combining RCCI with these fuels delays combustion in the fuel-efficient diesel engine, which reduces its soot and smoke emissions and cleans up its dirty reputation.

"We're currently working on another paper, testing RCCI with synthetic kerosene, and that's never been attempted with the fuels that we're testing," said Muinos. "Every couple of months I'm in the test cell, running the engine, thinking, 'Wow, nobody's ever done this before.' It's really novel fuels that we work with. It's a great opportunity."

Muinios' research recently led to his selection as a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship recipient. He was one of 2,000 graduate students in the nation to receive the \$136,000 fellowship out of 16,500 applicants. He joined recipients from such institutions as Georgia Tech, MIT, Stanford, Princeton and Cornell.

The award will allow him to focus all of his attention and efforts on his research and thesis, and continue to learn under his mentor, Valentin Soloiu, Ph.D., the Allen E. Paulson Distinguished Chair of Renewable Energy, an influence Muinos says goes far beyond the classroom.

"A couple of weeks ago, we were at the SAE World Congress in Detroit, and it's amazing how many people know Dr. Soloiu up there," he said. "I think we talked to three or four presidents of different companies or vice-presidents of different companies that he knows personally and they appreciate him. Previous master's students have gotten jobs in Detroit just from being in this lab. One research company — I think they currently have five of his former students now."

Soloiu said the awards and accolades weren't just the result of his mentorship, however. Muinos entered the University as a transfer from Southern Polytechnic State University as a sophomore, and within just six months of being introduced to the lab, he was promoted to a full student researcher — "one of the fastest student promotions in years," Soloiu said.

Muinios says the professor's influence has been invaluable, and is a testament to Georgia Southern's reputation as a "large scale, small feel" research University.

"I can go talk to any of my professors at any time," said Muinos. "They're always available — especially Dr. Soloiu. If I have a question, I just email him and he'll email me right back. I'll go to his office or labs and he's there for me."

In the future, Muinos hopes to continue his work in engineering, eventually pursuing a Ph.D. and working in a national lab. Dr. Soloiu said the student has already received an offer from the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, which houses some of the brightest minds in the world and boasts \$760 million in funding. Muinos politely declined.

The fellowship gives him more time — time with his research and time to continue learning under his mentor.

"It's not every day I'm told I can get paid to be a student," he said.

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Recreation Facility at Georgia Southern named for former University President and First Lady

MAY 7, 2015



Georgia Southern University's state-of-the-art Recreation Activity Center (RAC) will be named after former University president and first lady, Bruce and Kathryn Grube.

Dr. Grube was Georgia Southern University's 11th president and served from 1999 to 2009. During his tenure, the University became a Carnegie Doctoral/Research university, experienced record-breaking enrollment and significant improvement in academic quality, as well as unprecedented growth in facilities and other resources. President Grube worked to build strong relationships with local, state and national leaders bringing collaboration and progress to the University and the surrounding communities. Kathryn Grube devoted herself to Georgia Southern and the community, contributing countless hours of volunteer work for the University and Statesboro.

The RAC is a cutting-edge recreation center and icon of campus life for many Georgia Southern students. Originally opened in 1998, the facility was expanded in 2006 to its present size of 215,000

square feet. With more than 5,500 visitors each day, the Center offers fitness equipment, intramural sports, wellness services and meeting spaces.

The naming of the Bruce and Kathryn Grube Recreation Activity Center, approved by University System of Georgia Board of Regents, follows the landmark \$1 million gift from the former University president and first lady. This gift will be earmarked for three critical areas: leadership scholarships, Honors program scholarships and recreation programming for students.

"Scholarships, recreation and wellness are significant elements of a successful educational experience at Georgia Southern," said Dr. Grube. "Kathryn and I understand these student needs from our years of serving the University. We are grateful that we are able to leave a legacy to Georgia Southern University students. We certainly owe much to the many students who touched our lives over the years."

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.

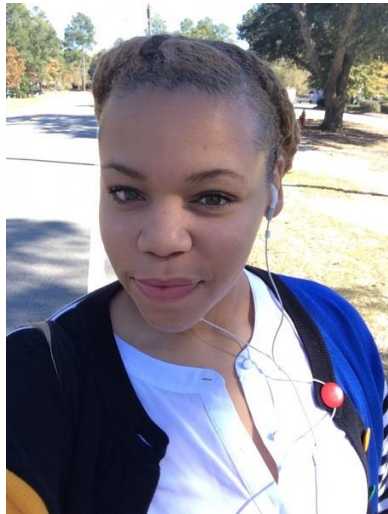


Two Georgia Southern Students Selected to Join Teach For America

MAY 11, 2015

Khrysta Robinson and Marissa McOmber both crossed the stage this weekend and officially became alumni of Georgia Southern University, and both are excited to begin a career this summer working with children.

They've committed two years to Teach For America (TFA), an organization that recruits college graduates from around the country to teach in high-need classrooms while helping expand educational opportunities for children facing the challenges of poverty.



Khrysta Robinson

Robinson, a public relations major from Stone Mountain, Georgia, is headed to San Antonio, Texas, to teach special education students. She aspires to go into social justice, and found that beginning her career with an organization like TFA would be a great place to start.

"I know I want to go into social justice, and there are so many aspects of being in this teaching environment—from different perspectives, races, ethnicities and socioeconomic statuses—that will help me figure out the area I would like to pursue and the best way to make a difference," said Robinson.

Robinson spent a lot of time working with the Multicultural Student Center on campus and also was involved in the Black Student Alliance among other organizations. Participation in these groups, she said, have helped her hone skills she'll be able to pass along to her students.

"The things I have learned in and outside of classroom, especially with the Multicultural Student Center, and opening my mind to different perspective, are things I'll be able to pass along to my students and help them think outside the box too," she said.

She hopes to also use the communications skills she learned while pursuing her public relations degree. "I'm a big believer in communications, so in the ways that I sculpt and mold messages to get an intended point across, those skills will guide me in teaching and the lessons that I give."

And despite not earning a degree in education, Robinson is still passionate about helping children, especially in the classroom.

"I originally looked into TFA because of my passion for social justice," said Robinson. "When doing my research, I resonated with the mission of providing a great education for children everywhere, regardless of race or socioeconomic status."

Marissa McOmber

Like Robinson, McOmber didn't earn a degree in education, either. The Suwanee, Georgia, native credits her involvement in organizations such as Model UN and experiences like serving as the Director General of the Southeastern United States Model United Nations (SUSMUN), a conference for high school students in the International Model United Nations Association, for inciting her passion for education.



"Education has been a huge part of my life and I've always been really passionate about politics and have considered teaching at the college level in the future," McOmber said. "However, SUSMUN and Model UN are learning focused, which made me really understand how much I care about education. TFA is open to college graduates of all majors, so I thought it was a really interesting fit.

"Additionally, my term in Greensboro is two years and I could potentially use my political science background to become an advocate for education reform," she added.

Education reform is another reason McOmber decided to join TFA.

"The interview process was actually really enjoyable, but also enlightened me to the serious need for educational reform in this country," she said. "I have always thought I would work internationally, which I still may do in the future, but through learning about TFA I've become really passionate about ensuring that every student here in the U.S. has access to a quality education."

McOmber will teach English in the North Carolina Piedmont Triad Region (NCPT), or the Greensboro metropolitan area, and is ready to get in the classroom.

"I'm so excited to meet my students. I want to be able to advocate for these students and be one more person who truly believes in their ability to succeed," McOmber said. "I'm excited to be part of

the Greensboro community and get to know the needs of the students and community I'm serving. I am also really excited to meet and learn from my fellow NCPT Corps Members this summer, who are equally as passionate and excited about educational equity as I am."

TFA was founded in 1990 and recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity.

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