

Georgia Southern Alumnus Finds New Human Relative

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

STATESBORO, Ga. — A Georgia Southern alumnus is leading a group of scientists who claim to have found the bones of a new species in our human ancestry.

Paleoanthropologist Lee Berger ('89) led a team of around 30 scientists deep inside a cave in South Africa where they discovered more than 1,500 fossils, representing some 15 individuals from the *Homo* genus, but with significant differences from any known species. Berger and his team named the new species *Homo naledi*, and it is the first discovery of its kind in the world. The find has been covered by a wide range of national and international news outlets, and experts suggest the species will rewrite the history books concerning the origins of our human family tree. An exact date on *Homo naledi* has not been determined, but the species could date back as far as 2.8 million years ago.

Berger graduated from Georgia Southern with a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology and holds a doctoral degree in palaeo-anthropology from the University of Witwatersand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is currently a professor at the University of Witwatersand. His find will be featured in the October issue of the *National Geographic*.

Berger and his mother are in the process of starting two endowments at Georgia Southern, the Archeological Federal Depository on the newly announced South Campus and the Lee Berger Endowed Professorship.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student's core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University's College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations, and the world. CLASS offers more than 20 undergraduate degrees and several interdisciplinary minors from its 11 departments and five academic centers. CLASS offers eight master's degrees, two graduate certificates and one doctoral degree. For more information visit: <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu>

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. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Tags: [Alumni](#), [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences](#), [Georgia Southern](#)

Patti Solis Doyle to Speak for Hispanic Heritage Month

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Patti Solis Doyle, political organizer and campaign strategist, will share her thoughts on “Shaping the Future of Hispanics in the U.S.” in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. The Multicultural Student Center at Georgia Southern will host Doyle on Wed., Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. in University’s Russell Union Ballroom.

Doyle, named one of the “100 Most Influential Hispanics” by *Hispanic Business*, was the first Hispanic woman to lead a presidential effort in the U.S. She served in the White House, acted as campaign manager for Hillary Clinton and founded one of the largest and most successful fundraising campaigns for Democrats to date.

A small meet-and-greet will be held following the speech.

Attendees will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with Doyle, and light refreshments will be served.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/multicultural/>.

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Together We're Better

Campus and Community

THANK YOU EAGLE NATION! A Day for Southern was a huge success. In just 24 hours, alumni and friends from around the state and nation came together to help Georgia Southern soar! The photo below shows the total raised in Bulloch County, exceeding last year's gift's! In addition, students and alumni donated \$15,987.73 online! Together, the Eagle Nation is unstoppable! On behalf of Georgia Southern students, faculty, and staff: thank you!



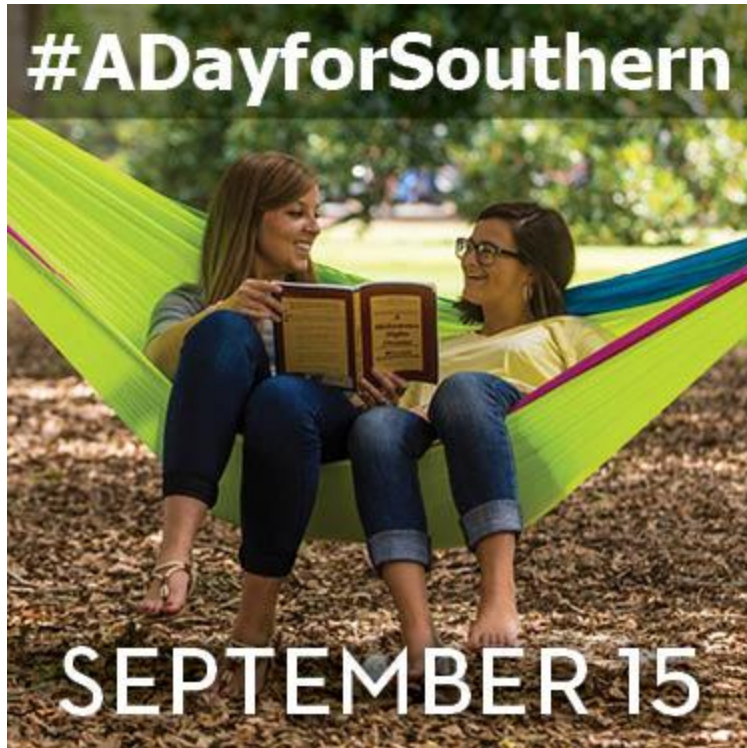
The Power of your Gift

Gifts made during "A Day for Southern" give for current and future Eagles the opportunity to soar to greater heights! Your contribution provides students with valuable opportunities and innovative

learning experiences. When you give to "A Day for Southern" you are making a difference in the Georgia Southern community.

Together the Eagle Nation is unstoppable. *Every Eagle, Every Year!*

[Click here for a list of Funds to Support](#)



Spread the Word

Want to help spread the work about the "A Day for Southern" campaign? Start by liking our [Facebook page](#) to keep up with the campaign and then [click here and learn more](#) on how you can help us Spread the Word!

Study Abroad Fair

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

10-2:00 p.m.

Russell Union Ballroom

CHINA • MOROCCO • RUSSIA • COSTA RICA • DENMARK • SPAIN • BRAZIL • UNITED KINGDOM • GERMANY • MEXICO

Explore Your World!

Study Abroad Fair



Tuesday, September 22
Russell Union Ballroom
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

CZECH REPUBLIC • KOREA • FRANCE • SOUTH AFRICA • IRELAND • INDIA • ITALY • GHANA • SWITZERLAND • JAPAN • CANADA

On Tuesday, September 22, 2015, Georgia Southern University will host the Annual Study Abroad Fair from 10-2:00 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom. Representatives from programs offered by Georgia Southern University, other Georgia schools, and independent program providers will be on hand to talk with interested students. These programs will provide information on upcoming study abroad programs which include program dates, academic information, program cost, and other pertinent information. This is a great opportunity for program providers to market their programs to students and for students to learn more about study abroad opportunities.

Attending the fair will give you the chance to:

View information from over 30 of Georgia Southern's partner universities

Speak to Georgia Southern students who have recently returned from a period of study abroad about their experiences

Meet exchange students from our partner institutions who are currently studying at Georgia Southern

Discover the many opportunities available to you for studying abroad!

Information on scholarships and financial aid will also be available.

Vote on the [Study Abroad Photo Contest](#) while there!

All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

Program Directors should register to attend [here](#).

Georgia Southern University Presidential Search Committee Named

SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

Board of Regents Chairman Neil Pruitt has announced the formation of the two committees required by regents' policy to conduct a national search for the next president of Georgia Southern University (GSU). In July, former Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel was appointed president of Georgia Regents University.

"I want to thank our Georgia Southern University stakeholders for their commitment to the institution, the University System and the State of Georgia by serving on the presidential search committee," said Pruitt. "Led by Regent Lori Durden, who lives in Statesboro, there is comprehensive representation of faculty, staff, alumni, students, the foundation, the Statesboro community and the Board of Regents, and their roles in this search are critical to the future of Georgia Southern University."

The Special Regents' Search Committee will be chaired by Regent Lori Durden and include Regents Ben Tarbutton III, Kessel Stelling, Scott Smith, Don Waters, Larry Walker and Neil Pruitt.

The search and screening of candidates is the responsibility of an 18-member Presidential Search and Screen Committee, whose members also are appointed by Pruitt. Members of the committee are as follows:

- Dr. Stephen P. Vives, department chair and professor of biology, Georgia Southern University
- Dr. Danny Bauer, department chair and professor of writing and linguistics, Georgia Southern University
- Dr. Kelley G. Chester, MPH, principal, C3 Informatics, LLC
- Dr. S. Todd Deal, executive director, Leadership and Community Engagement, Georgia Southern University
- Dr. Melissa Garno, associate professor, School of Nursing, Georgia Southern University
- Dr. Anthony Barilla, associate professor, Department of Finance and Economics, Georgia Southern University
- Darron Burnette, president, Sea Island Bank
- Julian I. Deal, CPA
- Dr. Mark Edwards, Fuller E. Callaway professor, Department of Physics, Georgia Southern University
- Charles Glover, president, Student Government Association, Georgia Southern University

- Dr. Barbara Christmas Golden, chair, Georgia Southern University Foundation
- Dr. Patricia Humphrey, chair, Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Senate moderator, Georgia Southern University
- Dr. Lissa M. Leege, professor, Department of Biology and director, Center for Sustainability, Georgia Southern University
- Michele Martin, M.S., ACSM H/FS, chair, Staff Council and program director, University Wellness, Georgia Southern University
- Dr. Beverly Graham, associate professor, Department of Communication Arts, Georgia Southern University
- Patrice Jackson, dean of students, Georgia Southern University
- Teresa MacCartney, CFO and director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Honorable Jan Moore, mayor, City of Statesboro

The campus-based committee will be charged with its responsibilities in a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the University. These duties include the development of a position description, the placement of announcements and conducting on-campus interviews. The search firm of Parker Executive Search of Atlanta has been engaged to assist the search committee.

At the conclusion of its work, the campus committee will forward the credentials of three to five unranked candidates to the Regents' Search Committee. The Regents' Search Committee is responsible for recommending finalists to Chancellor Hank Huckaby, who will make a recommendation to the full Board of Regents.