

Retirees ceremony honors 54 retiring faculty and staff

April 22, 2016



Retirees (l to r) Susan Nelson, Ken Southwell and Janet O'Brien served at Georgia Southern for 30 or more years.

When Susan Nelson, 25Live functional administrator in Information Technology Services, arrived at Georgia Southern College in 1980, there were only 6,700 students in attendance, and the campus was just a fraction of the size it is now.

"When I began in 1980, if you had to go to the Newton Building for class you thought were going 'the end of world,'" she said. "There was nothing past the Newton building."

Since that time, Georgia Southern — now a University with nearly 20,500 students — has grown exponentially, but what remains constant for Nelson is the family she's gained in her 36 years of service.

"Georgia Southern is family," she said. "I have enjoyed working with students, faculty and staff. I love it when students contact me after they have graduated to thank me for helping them when they were a student. I have met some wonderful people over the past 36 years."

Nelson was one of 54 faculty and staff members honored at the annual Retirees Recognition Ceremony, held on Wednesday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m. at the Builders of the University Terrace. She was one of only three retirees with 30 or more years of service, joining Janet O'Brien, director of the Academic Success Center, with 33 years service; and Ken Southwell, technical support specialist in the Center for Academic Technology Support, with 30 years service.

"This is the only place I have ever worked and I've loved every minute of it," said O'Brien. "I started working at Marvin Pittman Lab School here as a graduate assistant and never left. I was so fortunate to have a job that I enjoyed going to each morning."

The Retirees Recognition Ceremony honors those who have either retired since the last ceremony or announced their retirement this year. University administration, including Interim President Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., R.N., were on hand to celebrate the service of these faculty and staff.

"You represent some of the most outstanding work that's being done to make Georgia Southern what it is," said Bartels. "So on behalf of the Georgia Southern family, Eagle Nation, I want to thank each and every one of you for the contributions you've made to making this an outstanding University."

"Not enough can be said about that, and we don't say it often enough when you're here," she added.

In retirement, Nelson says she looks forward to doing things "when and if" she wants to, which includes visiting family and traveling. O'Brien will also visit family and friends, but will also use her free time to go to "even more" Eagles games this year.

The retirees honored at the 2016 ceremony were:

- Cathy Beene
- Vickie Ann Berghoff
- James J. Bergin, Ed.D.
- Jean D. Black
- Loretta A. Brandon

- Roy Brannen*
- Sara Jo Britt
- Willie J. Burden, Ed.D.*
- Tommy L. Busby, Sr.
- Deborah Bussell
- Hal Cartee*
- Annette B. Cason
- Charles C. Cox, III
- Julia S. Dempsey
- Grigory Dmitriyev, Ed.D.
- Glynn Dell Edwards
- Robert Fordham
- Anna W. Gleissner
- Robert Grogan
- Ann H. Hamilton
- Mary Frances Hazeldine, Ph.D.
- Linda Fay Hendrix
- Carroll Jenkins
- William T. Johnson
- Connie W. Kearney
- Russell Kent, Ph.D.
- Thomas Benno Klein, Ph.D.*
- Marilyn J. Leon
- Darlene H. Logan
- John Howard Luna
- Connie Griggs Murphey
- Susan E. Nelson
- Janet L. O'Brien
- Sandra J. Peacock, Ph.D.
- Margaret Pigatt-Lanier*
- James L. Pugh, Ph.D.
- Judy Rawls
- Melanie Riddick
- Linda W. Rushing
- Michael J. Russell
- Martha L. Schriver, Ph.D.

- David W. Seaman, Ph.D.
- William T. Sharpe, Jr.
- Pamela D. Smith
- Kenneth R. Southwell
- Vicki Swan
- Carol C. Thompson
- Charles H. Trupe, III, Ph.D.
- Ronald L. Watkins
- Barbara M. Weiss
- Gail M. Williams
- Jerry W. Wilson, D.B.A.*
- LeVon E. Wilson, Ed.D.
- Lisa Schafer Yocco

**In Memoriam*

Posted in [Faculty](#), [My News](#), [Reward & Recognition](#), [Staff](#)

Olivia Edenfield, Ph.D. named Professor of the Year for 2016

APRIL 22, 2016



Olivia Edenfield, Ph.D.

Olivia Carr Edenfield, Ph.D., was presented with the Wells/Warren Professor of the Year Award at the Georgia Southern University 2016 Honors Day Convocation held at the Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, April 6.

A second-generation Georgia Southern University graduate and Statesboro native, Edenfield (82') attended school at Marvin Pittman Laboratory School and Statesboro High School before earning her undergraduate degree in English at the University. Her parents, Paul Carr ('56) and Rose Watkins Carr ('57), graduates from Georgia Teachers College, passed along their love of teaching to Edenfield.

"My undergraduate professors as well as my parents, both of whom were teachers, inspired in me a deep love for the classroom," she said.

Edenfield and her husband of 33 years met as students and she couldn't resist "coming home" to Georgia Southern with him in 1986 when she was hired as a temporary instructor. Since then she has served as a non-tenure track instructor for the Developmental Studies/English Department, a Generalist in the English Department, the Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and is now the Executive Coordinator of the American Literature Association and professor in the Department of Literature and Philosophy.

Edenfield is a member of the Ernest Hemingway Society, the Cormac McCarthy Society, the Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society, the American Crime Fiction Group and the Society for the Study of the American Short Story.

Edenfield's area of specialization is the American short story, and she has published several works including a collection of interviews with Andre Dubus, *Conversations with Andre Dubus*, as his authorized biographer. Edenfield currently has two works in production, a monograph on Dubus, *Understanding Andre Dubus*, and a collection of essays on American crime and detective

fiction which she is co-editing.

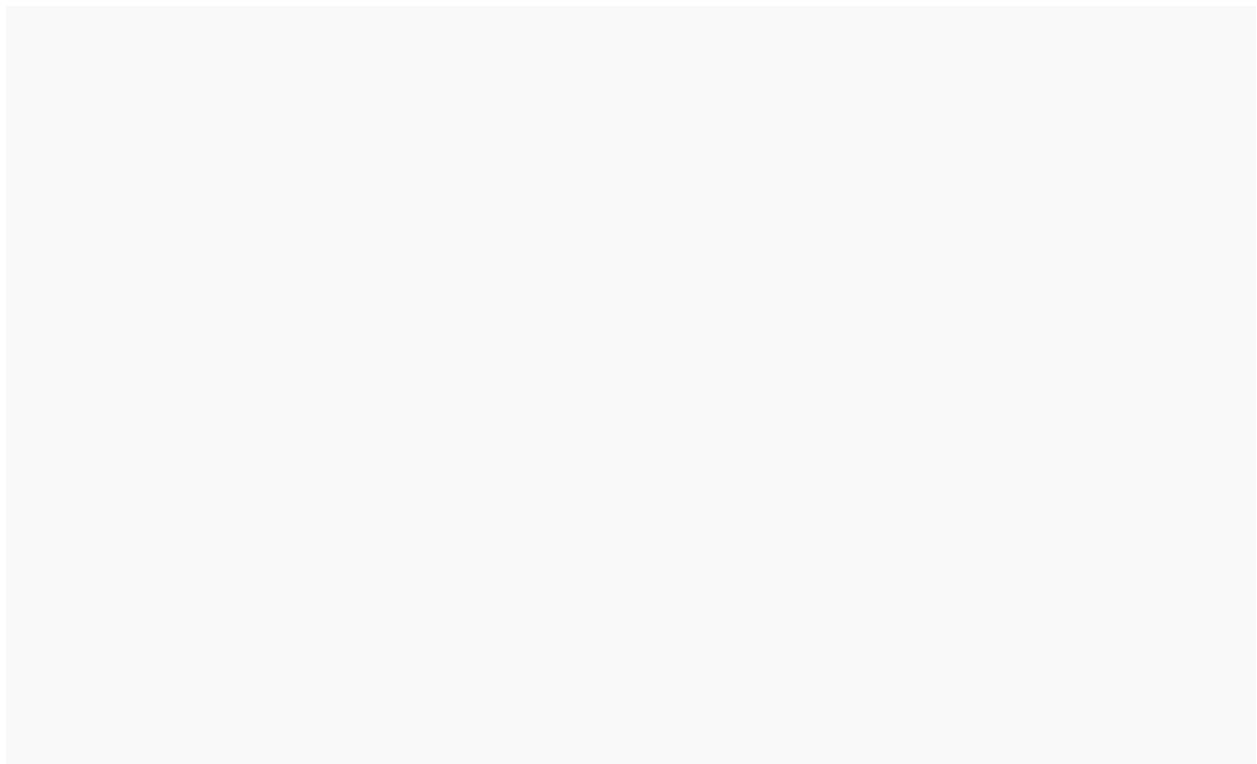
"What I love most about teaching is watching my students develop a passion for literature," Edenfield said. "I love watching them develop their ideas and become confident scholars in their own right. I love being in the classroom."

The winner of the Professor of the Year Award is selected annually by the University's students. Members of the Gamma Beta Phi honor society interview the department heads of the finalists and consider student evaluations of the professors.

The group then conducts a blind review of the finalists before selecting the winner of the award, which is endowed by former Gamma Beta Phi advisors J. Norman and Rosalyn Wells. The award is named in honor of their parents, Nolan and Audrey Wells and Hartwell and Lucile Warren.

"When I found out I was named Professor of the Year, I was especially happy to make my family so proud of me," Edenfield said. "The award is important to me because it is determined in part by students as well as by my department chair's recommendation. We have a dedicated interim department chair, Mary Villeponteaux, whom I very much admire, not only for her dedication to our majors and her sense of fairness, but also for her contributions to her discipline. To have her respect as well as those of my students is very important to me.

"I truly love teaching. It is a calling, and I am so blessed to spend my days with English majors."



Camp RAD to receive assistance through Faculty Service Award

APRIL 22, 2016



Katy Gregg, Ph.D.; Gavin Colquitt, Ed.D.; and Ashley Colquitt, Ph.D.

Camp RAD has been offered the past three summers and supports youth with disabilities in Bulloch County by offering a summer camp experience. Through collaboration with the Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department, The Therapy Spot and Georgia Southern faculty, Camp RAD provides safe, free opportunities for adapted physical activity and sport, health education and life skills training to adolescents age 10-21.

Camp RAD will be held Mondays through Thursdays, May 31-June 23. Campers can register for Camp RAD on April 11 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Honey Bowen Building. For more information on Camp RAD, contact Gavin Colquitt, Ph.D., at 912-478-0889 or Alison Brown at 912-764-5637. For information on financial assistance, contact Mitzi Proffitt at Parent-2-Parent of Georgia at 912-489-1904.

Georgia Southern recognized for Excellence in Community College Transfer

APRIL 25, 2016



Members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Chapter at Georgia Southern.

Georgia Southern University has been recognized by Phi Theta Kappa as one of the top universities in the nation to assist students in transferring from community colleges to four year institutions.

Out of 2,400 colleges and universities in the national, Georgia Southern University was one of only 40 schools recognized for this honor.

Selection for the inaugural Excellence in Community College Transfer Honor Roll was based on an extensive application process in which universities showcased their engagement, collaboration, impact, available scholarships and achievements in supporting community college transfer.

"With this designation, we hope to connect community college students with institutions who value

their unique transfer experience and prioritize their success,” Christin Grissom, director of scholarship operations for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society said.

Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest, largest and most prestigious honor society recognizing students pursuing two-year degrees. Phi Theta Kappa is made up of more than 3 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations. In April, Georgia Southern was approved to host a Phi Theta Kappa Alumni chapter.

“Students who are involved in Phi Theta Kappa at their two-year universities often wish to stay involved in the honors and services when they transfer to a four-year university,” Neal Richardson, associate director in the Office of Admissions, said. “Not only are we the only university in Georgia to make the Honor Roll, we are now the only university in Georgia that offers an alumni chapter so that those students may stay involved once they come to Georgia Southern.

To learn more about the alumni chapter, contact Neal Richardson at nrichardson@georgiasouthern.edu or 912-478-0860.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers approximately 125 degree programs serving nearly 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. GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Southern artists stand out at American Advertising Awards

APRIL 25, 2016



Students in the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art Ashley Hillman, Brooke Fremeau, Xinyang Li, Affaf Aslam, Brendan Lloyd and Shelby Myers won American Advertising Awards (ADDY) in Savannah this month.

Six Georgia Southern students took home awards at the local level of the 2016 American Advertising Awards (ADDY) in Savannah this month.

Sixteen students from Georgia Southern and 50 students from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) participated in the student competition in categories such as mobile app, packaging, integrated campaigns, posters, brochures and logo designs.

“Our students are among the most talented in the region, and we’re very proud of their

accomplishments,” Robert Farber, chair of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, said. “Events like this one give our students an opportunity to see how the skills they learn in the studio are applied in the marketplace and shows them how they measure up next to their peers.”

Brenden Lloyd, senior graphic design major, and Ashley Hillman, senior graphic design major, earned gold ADDYs; Xinyang Li, first-year graduate student of art, and Shelby Myers, senior, graphic design major, earned silver ADDY; Affaf Aslam, second year graduate student of art, and Brooke Fremeau, third year graduate student of art, earned bronze ADDYs. In addition to her gold ADDY, Hillman also took home a special judge’s award for her design work.

“This is a proud moment for Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, as well as for me as a graphic design professor,” Santanu Majumdar, associate professor of graphic design, said. “There’s nothing so rewarding for me as a teacher than to see my students succeed.”

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Lakeside Luau Goes Low Country This Year

APRIL 4, 2016

Eagle Dining Services is proud to announce they will be hosting the third annual Lakeside Luau with a low country twist, serving a coastal cuisine for students to enjoy at Lakeside Dining Commons on April 27th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Come enjoy a touch of the coast with Lakeside Dining Commons with low country music and a plate of down-home country cooking. Lakeside Low Country Luau will cater dishes such as Shrimp and Grits, Hush Puppies, Prime Rib Sliders, and more!

Along with the tasty menu, the low country vibe of the event will make you feel like you've entered the coastal deep south! The attendees will enjoy upbeat music, a picnic table type setting, coastal decorations, mason jars, and a photo booth to capture lasting memories.

Kent Tatum, General Manager of Lakeside Dining Commons, said "We always look forward to continuing the tradition of hosting our Luau event each year, and are deeply rewarded for our efforts by the expressions on people's faces when they walk into Lakeside and see how we've transformed the facility, along with the appreciation they show with the souvenir they receive. We believe this year's event will be one of the best!"

Lakeside will be closing at 3:00 p.m. in preparation for the Low Country Luau, and will reopen at 5 p.m. to kick off the festivities. Dining Plan holders receive all access. For Eaglexpress entry is \$12 and for cash, credit/debit entry is \$15 plus tax.

Posted in [Lakeside DC](#), [Special Events](#), [Uncategorized](#)

Graduate Students Receive Averitt Awards

APRIL 22, 2016



Martin Muinos, Desiree Riley and Heidi Moyer received the Averitt Awards for Excellence in Graduate Research and Instruction.

Three Georgia Southern students received Averitt Award for Excellence in Graduate Research and Instruction at the 2016 Research Symposium.

Heidi Moyer, a graduate student in the Department of History, received the award for excellence in

research.

Desiree Riley, a graduate student in the Department of Literature and Philosophy, received the award for excellence in instruction.

Martin Muinos, a graduate student pursuing a master's in applied engineering, received the award for excellence in research.

The Averitt Award is the highest honor bestowed upon graduate students within the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. The award is presented in two categories, excellence in research and excellence in instruction, and carries with it a \$1,000 prize.

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