

Georgia Southern's Jackson, Skipper named to Statesboro Herald's 20 Under 40

MAY 9, 2016



Georgia Southern's Patrice Jackson, dean of students, and Alan Skipper, an instructor in the School of Nursing, were both named to the Statesboro Herald's 20 Under 40, honoring the "top young professionals at the top of their game."

Jackson is the first female dean of students at Georgia Southern, where she first joined the staff in 2007 as an assistant dean. She was named dean in 2012, and since that time, she has worked to oversee student conduct, conflict and crisis management, and has created several activities and initiatives to promote total student development and to improve customer service. She is the former chair of the Regent's Advisory Council for Student Conduct Officers and an active member of the Association for Student Conduct Administrators and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at Georgia

Southern. In addition, she is active in the community, serving as advisor and mentor for students, and is active in her church, where she has directed ministries for women, singles and youth in music.

In addition to his teaching, Skipper is the chief nursing officer and co-owner of retirement living facilities for seniors Southern Manor Retirement Inn, located in Statesboro, and Lakeview Manor, located in Springfield, Georgia. He is also a family nurse practitioner at the Hearts and Hands Clinic and is in the process of finishing his doctorate of nursing practice degree. In his free time, Skipper is active in the Alzheimer's Association, Relay for Life and the Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, a national nursing society which only admits the top five percent of nurses, and is the vice president for the Mu Kappa chapter.

To be selected for the 20 Under 40 recognition, individuals had to not only have an impact in their profession, but also in the community.

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Southern students win big at Night of Spectacles

MAY 2, 2016



Georgia Southern Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design students took home first and second place at the ninth annual Night of Spectacles on April 2 in Atlanta for creating unique fashions from recycled eyewear.

Sidney Walker, a senior fashion merchandising and apparel design (FMAD) major, earned a \$1,000 scholarship for first place, and Acacia Miller, senior FMAD major, earned a \$500 scholarship for second place.

The fashion show benefits the Georgia Lions Lighthouse foundation, a nonprofit statewide provider of comprehensive vision and hearing services for uninsured and underinsured Georgians. The event challenges designers to create high fashion looks embellished with and inspired by broken eyewear collected through the Lighthouse's recycling program.

"The event forced me to challenge my creative ability and made me feel more secure as a designer," Walker said. "Winning the competition has given me an indescribable confidence."

Not only did eight Georgia Southern University students represent the College of Health and Human Sciences FMAD program as designers at the event, but alumna Felicia Ruiz also represented the program as an official judge.

"The judges were very impressed by the work of our students," Hope Simpara, assistant professor for the School of Human Ecology said. "This was the eighth year Georgia Southern was represented at the Night of Spectacles with students from our program being awarded first place the last three years."

To learn more about the designers and the event, visit www.NightofSpectacles.org.

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.

First-Year Experience announces winners of annual awards

MAY 9, 2016



Leticia McGrath, Brandon Lee and Annise Richard are the 2016 FYE Award winners.

The First-Year Experience (FYE) program at Georgia Southern announced the winners of its annual Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students and FYE Peer Leader of the Year awards that recognize excellence in the teaching and mentoring of first-year students.

Leticia McGrath, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish, was named the 2016 Faculty Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students. McGrath has taught multiple sections of both First-Year Seminar and Global Citizens for the past several years for both honors and non-honors students. She has developed an alternative spring break trip to Costa Rica that develops material from her FYE theme, "Hispanic Culture through Film." Last spring, McGrath led a group of first-year students to a student conference in Virginia to present their work from her Global Citizens course. She also serves as a teaching mentor to new FYE faculty, and has worked with FYE on several assessment and curriculum development projects.

"Teaching for FYE has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my professional life, as it gives me the opportunity not only to get to know students and faculty from all disciplines who otherwise I would not have ever met," said McGrath. "I also get to share my love of Hispanic Culture and Film and encourage students to engage in discussions and research with enthusiasm."

Annise Richard, hall director at Eagle Village, was named the 2016 Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students for administrators or staff members. She's taught FYE 1220 since coming to Georgia Southern three years ago, to both fall-term freshmen and Eagle Incentive Program students. Her theme is "Daring Greatly the College Way."

"I have always been a big believer in first impressions, and I think that is why I am so passionate about serving first-year students," Richard said. "I love the feeling that my first interactions with these students could impact the rest of their college career, and I strive to make the best impression I can."

Brandon Lee received the 2016 FYE Peer Leader of the Year Award. Lee is from Athens, Georgia, and is a senior honors student majoring in management and marketing. Brandon has been involved with FYE as a peer leader for three years.

"The experience itself and professional relationships I have built with professors have been invaluable to me," he said. "Each year I felt more confident in my role in the classroom, but I have enjoyed working with incoming freshman each year. It gave me the opportunity to give the sort of guidance I would have appreciated in my freshman year, and helps students make a successful transition to college."

The [First-Year Experience Advisory Council](#) selects the recipients, who receive a plaque and travel to an FYE or other professional conference (Outstanding Advocate winners) or \$100 (Peer Leader). The awards are sponsored by First-Year Experience and [Phi Eta Sigma](#), the first-year student honor society.

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History Professor Receives Yale Visiting Scholar Fellowship

MAY 6, 2016

Kathleen M. Comerford, Ph.D., professor of history at Georgia Southern, will travel to Yale University this summer as one of the recipients of the Beinecke Visiting Scholar Fellowships.

Comerford will travel to New Haven, Connecticut, in the fall to visit the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, where she will continue her research project, a comparative study of college libraries managed by the Society of Jesus — the Jesuits — in the 16th and 17th centuries.

“The Society is an order of priests with an illustrious history of missions and education, but their bookholding practices have not been studied in depth,” she said.

The Beinecke Library holds at least seven books that once resided in European Jesuit Colleges in the 16th and 17th centuries, and Comerford says they will help further her understanding of how they were used by the Jesuits.

“One of the most difficult issues in progressing from lists of books is determining how those books were used, and understanding that depends on tracking down the physical texts which were held by these libraries,” she said. “The Jesuits were suppressed between 1772 and 1814, which means that their libraries were scattered via purchases, donations and theft. The Beinecke Library also houses multiple sources for the study of other early modern European libraries and a large collection of works on European Jesuit history.”

In her research, Comerford has traveled Jesuit libraries in Spain, the Netherlands and England, and also plans to visit libraries in Belgium this summer. Upon completion of her research, she will publish her findings in a book.

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Tags: [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences](#)



Students open Little Free Library in Statesboro coffee shop

MAY 6, 2016



Members of the Georgia Southern University chapter of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society have partnered with Three Tree Coffee Roasters to open a Little Free Library in Statesboro.

Lydia Biggs, senior English major and president of the University chapter of the honor society, was taking suggestions for a community service project for the spring semester when one of their members brought to their attention the Little Free Library project.

"In the past we have done projects such as reading in the after-school programs for kids, donating books to the women and children's center and the local prisons," Biggs said. "This year we focused on the Little Free Library project."

The organization began with a book drive and eventually accumulated enough donated books to fill two Little Free Libraries. Members of Sigma Tau Delta encouraged everyone in the community to donate and even offered a raffle and prizes for those who participated.

Once the books were collected, the organization decided to partner with local business Three Tree Coffee Roasters to host their new Little Free Library.

"Since it just opened, I knew Three Tree was a hotspot for students," Amanda Gilbert, English major and co-president and treasurer of Sigma Tau Delta, said. "In the top of the coffee shop there is an area called the 'treehouse.' It's a really relaxing area, and we figured people would be likely to pick up a book and read it there."

The organization plans to christen their Little Free Library with an official plaque this month.

"The plaque gives us a Little Free Library identification number, and if people are familiar with the Little Free Libraries, they can search on the website, and the one at Three Tree will pop up," Gilbert said.

"It's a really sustainable project," Gilbert said. "It gives people a place to donate old books instead of throwing them out. I also like that Little Free Libraries are really creative."

About the Little Free Library:

The Little Free Library initiative came about in 2009 after Todd Bol of Hudson, WI built a small model schoolhouse in his neighborhood and filled it with books. He included a sign that read "FREE BOOKS." Bol later partnered with Rick Brooks, Outreach Program Manager at the University of Wisconsin, to grow the initiative as a means of spreading reading throughout the nation.

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/history/>

CLASS Alumnus Named One of Time Magazine's Most Influential People

MAY 6, 2016



Georgia Southern alumnus Lee Berger, Ph.D., ('89) was recently named one of the 100 Most Influential People by TIME magazine.

Berger graduated from Georgia Southern's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences with a bachelor of arts in anthropology and holds a Ph.D. in palaeo-anthropology from the University of Witwatersand in South Africa. He is currently a professor at the University of Witwatersand.

Berger has made several discoveries in the field of anthropology during his career and unveiled his latest discovery of a new human species, Homo naledi, in the fall.

The find of nearly 100 remains in a cave that was used for disposal dating back as far back as 2.8 million years ago was featured in the October issue of National Geographic.

TIME magazine noted that, "One way scientists know they've had an impact is if they've gotten their peers talking. A better way is getting them arguing. By that measure and others, Lee Berger, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, has had a huge year."

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) 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 class.georgiasouthern.edu.

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Georgia Southern student wins \$6000 Phi Eta Sigma scholarship

MAY 9, 2016

Candace Moon, a junior biology major, is one of only 36 national winners of a \$6,000 undergraduate scholarship from Phi Eta Sigma, the national first-year honor society.

The scholarship funds will help Moon in her senior year at Georgia Southern, where she is studying in the pre-dental professional program, after which she hopes to attend dental school and pursue a career as an orthodontist.

Chris Caplinger, director of First-Year Experience at the University, wrote Moon's recommendation letter for the scholarship, and says she is a deserving recipient because of her commitment to serving others.

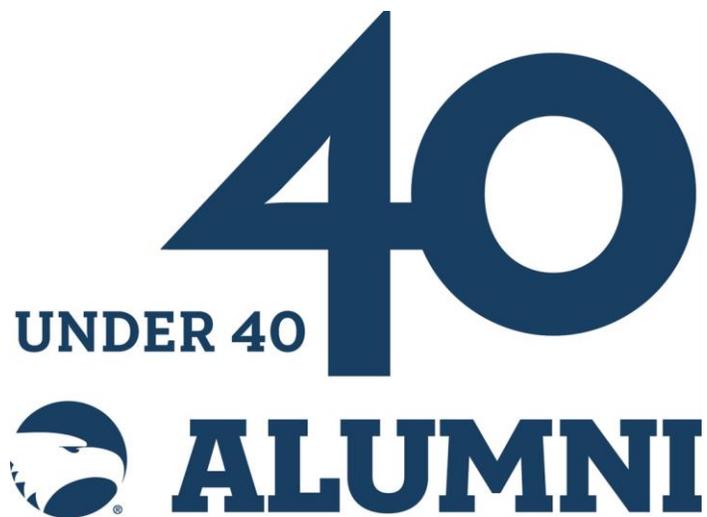
Beyond her service in Phi Eta Sigma, Moon also regularly volunteers at the Statesboro Food Bank and has volunteered for the American Cancer Society, the local nursing home and food kitchen. Along with her sisters, she created a non-profit organization to direct youth to various support opportunities, and started the Genuine Smiles Group which distributes toothbrushes and other dental hygiene products to the homeless. In addition, she helps mentor African-American freshmen girls and serves as the service chair of the pre-dental society.

"Service is a constant in almost everything Candace undertakes," Caplinger wrote.

Phi Eta Sigma is the oldest national honor society for first-year college students in the United States. In order to be offered membership, students must earn a minimum 3.6 GPA after the fall semester of their first year as a college student.

Active members of Phi Eta Sigma volunteer in the Statesboro community and assist First-Year Experience with programs to support first-year students.

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



Nominations are closed for 40 Under 40 Class of 2016.

Thank you for your support!

About the Program

This honor, given out by the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association, recognizes young alumni that are leading the way in business, leadership, community, educational and/or philanthropic endeavors. The forty will be chosen by a selection committee based on their professional expertise and achievements, as well as dedication to charitable and community initiatives.

General Information:

Thank you for your interest in nominating a Georgia Southern University graduate for the Alumni Association's 40 under 40 program. Please review the award requirements and criteria before submitting your nominations.

Nominations will open on Monday, April 4, 2016, will close on Monday, May 9, and must be submitted by someone other than the nominee. Please consider asking fellow alumni, employers or community leaders to nominate deserving alumni who are not members of the nominee's immediate family.

Requirements of Honorees:

- Must be a Georgia Southern graduate (undergraduate or graduate degree)

- Must be under 40 by September 1, 2016
- Must be willing to submit a photo, if selected, to be published by the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association, Office of Marketing & Communications, and various Schools and Colleges as appropriate.

Criteria for Honorees:

- Must aspire to uphold the core values of Georgia Southern University of integrity, civility, kindness, collaboration, and a commitment to lifelong learning, wellness, and social responsibility.
- Must demonstrate a commitment to maintaining a lifelong relationship with Georgia Southern University.
- Must have made an impact in business, research, artistic, leadership, community, educational, and/or philanthropic endeavors.

Important Dates:

April 4	-	Nominations Launched
May 9	-	Nominations Closed
May 16	-	Nominees contacted for additional information
May 26	-	Nominee deadline to submit additional information
June 14	-	Nominee information submitted to Selection Committee
July 20	-	Selection Committee deadline
August 1	-	Nominees notified by email (all nominees will be contacted)
September 17	-	40 under 40 Awards Luncheon

Your kids will love Summer at Georgia Southern

At Georgia Southern University, summer camps are not only an extension of our mission to provide practical hands-on learning for our students, they're also a lot of fun! Our half- and full-day camps encourage your children to explore their current interests or try something completely new. We have a wide range of activities to choose from, with several classes designed for children and teens. At summer camp, your children will not only spend educational time away from home, unplugged from video games and television, they will also experience a wealth of developmental benefits. Child development experts say kids in summer camp:

- learn new social skills in community
- make new friends with similar interests
- learn teamwork and resiliency
- gain confidence and self-esteem as they master new skills