

Georgia Southern University welcomes Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., as its 13th president

JULY 1, 2016



President Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D.

Today, Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., assumes his position as Georgia Southern University's 13th president. Hebert not only brings to Georgia Southern extensive academic experience and leadership, but also an enthusiasm for Georgia Southern's commitment to academic excellence.

"I am honored and proud to be the 13th president of Georgia Southern," said Hebert. "As president, I will be working to ensure that our students and their professors are equipped to excel, and to continue the proud history of student success at Georgia Southern."

In his first hundred days as president, Hebert is gathering information and ideas by asking students, alumni, faculty, staff and the community to complete a [survey](#) to share their thoughts on Georgia Southern, and identify what they feel should be his first priorities.

Prior to this role, he served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he spent the majority of his academic career. After joining the faculty there in 1999, Hebert was promoted to associate and full professor, served as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences before moving into the provost position in 2011.

During his tenure as provost, Hebert initiated academic organizational changes to increase effectiveness and efficiency. He led the establishment of the College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication, the School of Nursing, three new departments in the College of Criminal Justice and a new College of Health Sciences. Under his direction, Sam Houston State added several doctoral, master's and undergraduate degrees, and he played an integral role in securing gifts of more than \$35 million for academic programs.

Hebert served in a variety of leadership roles at Sam Houston State, including co-chair of the Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee and chair of the Faculty Evaluation Committee, Faculty Grievance Committee and Athletic Advisory Committee. He also served on a SACSCOC Compliance

Committee, Faculty Senate, the Standing Faculty Tenure Committee and the Texas Success Initiative Committee.

Prior to joining Sam Houston State, he was an assistant professor of mathematical sciences at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. For three consecutive years, he was nominated as a Student Government Association Outstanding Teacher.

A native of Louisiana, Hebert earned his bachelor, master's and Ph.D. degrees in statistics from the University of Louisiana – Lafayette and has worked extensively in statistical research. He has published in such journals as Communications in Statistics, Quality Engineering, Journal of Applied Probability, The American Statistician and Psychological Reports. He has received more than \$2.5 million in external funding as principal investigator or co-principal investigator.

The new Georgia Southern president was an active member of his community in Huntsville where he served as president of the Huntsville Rotary Club, on the board of directors for Huntsville Girls Softball and on the Huntsville/Walker Economic Development Committee. In addition, he regularly conducted workshops for new provosts sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

[Meet President Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D. video](#)

Follow President Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., on Twitter: [@Pres_Hebert](#)

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Wherever life takes you

JUNE 30, 2016



Justin L. Williams never expected six years in the U.S. Army and a 1,000 foot jump from a plane to land him where he is today – pursuing a second degree at Georgia Southern University through the help of the University’s Wounded Eagle Fund.

A native of Cordele, Georgia, Williams joined the Army as an E-1, or a buck private. His first duty station was at the former Warner Barracks in Bamberg, Germany, with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat team. With this team, he deployed to Afghanistan before heading to Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

“From my deployment experience, I really have a great appreciation now for the freedoms we have in America,” said Williams. “There’s a lot of things that we do here, not even thinking about, that you wouldn’t dream of doing other places in the world.”

It is no surprise that his military career would teach him new skills, but just how beneficial they would prove in the future was unexpected.

“I learned a ridiculous amount about hard work and discipline,” Williams emphasized.

A military career was going to be a major part of his life. He wanted to stay in the Army and become a warrant officer, then have a career in politics. But that all changed one day in December 2011.

While at Fort Bragg, he was part of a training exercise that entailed a "Hollywood" jump, one that is not particularly high and jumpers only carry a parachute. Williams recalled it was supposed to be "one of the good ones."

"We're all like 'yeah, it's going to be easy, you know, it's nothing.'"

This jump resulted in a severely injured leg for Williams. Hard work and discipline were exactly what he needed during the following year-long recovery from his injuries. After six months with his leg in a cast, he spent several more months learning to walk again. He persevered with his military assignment before concluding his body just couldn't handle it anymore.

Georgia Southern became the next place for Williams to soar. He enrolled in Fall 2013 as a 25-year-old freshman. Those lessons in hard work and discipline he learned while in the service helped him graduate ahead of schedule in December 2015 and receive a bachelor's degree with a major in political science and a minor in philosophy.

"Even when it was time for me to graduate, I knew they had a program for me so I decided to stay because I really like Georgia Southern," said Williams. "It's in a nice place, it reminds me of my hometown, but overall I fell in love with the campus when I came here."

Williams is currently pursuing his master's in public administration at the University, a goal that wouldn't have been possible without financial assistance from a pivotal scholarship fund at Georgia Southern.

He is the 2016 recipient of the [Wounded Eagle Fund](#), a scholarship created to help wounded veterans who have transitioned from soldiers to students to pursue their dreams of a college education. Georgia Southern has been named among the most military-friendly campuses in the nation by both G.I. Jobs magazine and Military Advanced Education's Guide to Military Friendly Colleges and Universities. Even still, for veterans, adjusting to a university environment after a career in the military can be difficult enough, but combined with the financial strains of an education, the transition can become extremely challenging.

"I think it's awesome that the family who started the scholarship feels something like this is necessary because a lot of people aren't aware that there are still financial issues that veterans have even with what the government gives us," said a grateful Williams.

The scholarship ensures that students who are wounded veterans and have risked their lives for our freedoms will have the opportunity to receive a stipend to offset the costs the G.I. Bill will not cover.

This financial assistance helps to ensure the successful adjustment of these heroes and their future happiness and productivity.

"It's a huge, huge thing for me because I wasn't sure if I'd be able to stay in the program and the scholarship is definitely assisting me in finishing," said Williams.



Not only does Williams consider his college education among his greatest accomplishments, he also takes pride in the work he's done with the Student Veterans Association and helping to strengthen the Military and Veteran Student Center at Georgia Southern. He has built a large network of other students, including military and veteran students he has met through the Student Veterans Association, and other University

connections. Using his experiences to assist others, he currently serves as a military advocate coordinator connecting military and veteran students with each other and resources.

"There was a teamwork aspect to it that really helped me get where I am now," he added.

After graduation in December 2017, he hopes to begin his career in city management. As for his thoughts on the next degree he'll receive, "I realize that life doesn't always keep you where you want. Wherever it takes you is where it takes you."

Georgia Southern University Multimedia Development Center and Department of Music Win Emmy® Award

JUNE 20, 2016



Art Berger, Evan Lebish, Rebecca Lynch and Jeffrey Clark

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), Southeast Chapter, has recognized Georgia Southern University's Multimedia Development Center (MDC) and Department of Music with an Emmy® Award for Best Live Audio.

Jeffrey Clark, graduate student in the Department of Music, Art Berger, director of the MDC, and Rebecca Lynch, academic and post-production producer for the MDC, won for their work in recording live the Georgia Southern

University Wind Symphony's performance of "Lis Escoubó" from Suite Provençal by Jan Van der Roost. Conducted by Colin McKenzie, D.M.A., the Wind Symphony is composed of students majoring in music education and performance as well as students from many other colleges and departments on campus.

The MDC provides students with professional opportunities to hone their skills in the areas of multimedia and television production.

"We are very proud of our collaboration with the Department of Music, especially the work of our students and their outstanding performance," said Berger.

NATAS is a professional organization for individuals in the television and broadcasting industry. NATAS is the standard-bearer for excellence in the television broadcasting industry and the gatekeepers of the prestigious regional Emmy® Awards. The Southeast Chapter represents the most experienced and talented television professionals from all disciplines of the industry and from television markets in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Asheville, North Carolina.

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Daniel J. Cox, Ph.D., to serve as founding chair of Department of Manufacturing Engineering

MAY 13, 2016



Daniel J. Cox, Ph.D., has joined Georgia Southern University as the founding chair of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering in the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology. Georgia Southern University made history on Aug. 20, 2014, when the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia granted the University the first undergraduate manufacturing engineering degree program in the state of Georgia and southeast United States. The program began accepting students fall 2015.

Cox brings extensive experience in industry, research and academics as he begins his new role at Georgia Southern.

"Spending the first half of my career as a practicing manufacturing engineer has given me the perspective of industry, which I have continued to carry in all of my endeavors in academia," said Cox. "As I transitioned from the private sector to academia, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to manage a research program focusing primarily on robotics. During my tenure at the University of North Florida, I strived to develop relationships with industry to create opportunities for my students. I look forward to continuing this tradition of industrial collaboration at Georgia Southern with the dynamic companies in the region. Together, we will help our students succeed in building the future of manufacturing engineering in the U.S."

From Gainesville, Florida, Cox received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with honors and a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Florida. In 1981, he began his career in manufacturing engineering when he joined the IBM Corporation in Boulder, Colorado, where he worked as a manufacturing engineer. In 1986, he was awarded the prestigious IBM Resident Study Program Award to attend doctoral studies at The University of Texas at Austin. He graduated with his doctorate in mechanical engineering with specialization in robotics from The University of Texas at Austin in 1992 where he also worked at the IBM Austin, Texas facility as a robotics and automation engineer until 1998.

He then joined the University of Texas at Austin as a research scientist and served as the associate director and program manager of the Robotics Research Group in his transition to academia. In 2001, he joined the faculty of the University of North Florida as professor of mechanical engineering. While at the University of North Florida, he initiated the Manufacturing Innovation Partnership program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, to foster industry-academic collaboration. He remains very active in mentoring experiential learning projects for engineering students through collaboration with industry. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of robotics, automation and advanced manufacturing.

Cox is a member of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME).

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Tags: [College of Engineering and Information Technology](#)

Georgia Southern faculty continue excellence in 2016

JUNE 23, 2016

Georgia Southern faculty excel in leadership, research and service, and many of these exceptional leaders have been recognized by Georgia Southern University and other organizations this year.

Susan Sanders, Ph.D., Appointed to Nursing Practice Committee



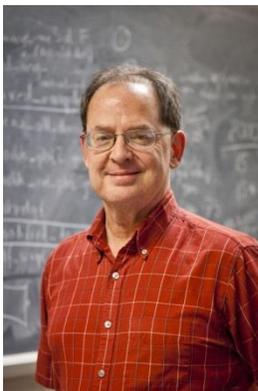
Susan Sanders

Susan Sanders, Ph.D., assistant professor with the School of Nursing at Georgia Southern University, has been appointed by the Georgia Board of Nursing to serve on the Nursing Practice Committee.

Sanders, who was selected because of her education, experience and geographical location, will help develop and advance nursing education standards throughout the state of Georgia.

She was appointed to a two-year term ending Dec. 31, 2017.

Mark Edwards, Ph.D., Selected to Participate in NSF Ideas Lab



Mark Edwards

Mark Edwards, Ph.D., Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Physics, has been selected by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to participate in the [NSF Ideas Lab "Measuring Big G."](#)

Edwards will propose a measurement of "Big G," Newton's universal gravitational constant, which would be conducted on the International Space Station.

The Ideas Lab will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology from July 18 to 22.

Matthew Hashiguchi, M.F.A., Awarded CAAM Documentary Fund Awards for Documentary

Department of Communications Arts Assistant Professor Matthew Hashiguchi, M.F.A., was awarded one of three Spring 2016 Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) Documentary Fund Awards for his recent film "Good Luck Soup."

Hashiguchi's film documents his family's experiences of being Japanese in America before, during and after World War II. It explores several generations assimilating into a new culture while preserving their own.

For 36 years, CAAM has curated, created and supported extraordinary documentaries and independent filmmakers through stories intended for public broadcast and public media. They have awarded nearly \$5 million to over 300 projects by and about Asian Americans.

Georgia Southern student films featured at Cannes Film Festival

JULY 5, 2016



Five Georgia Southern students joined the list of honored filmmakers and celebrities this summer at Cannes Film Festival in France.

Campus MovieFest (CMF), the world's largest student film festival, visited Georgia Southern as part of its Fall 2015 tour. Students Kevin Dellinger, Madison Reynolds, Tahir Daudier and Richard Patrick worked on the short films "For Him" and "For a Moment," which won the CMF Jury Award and gave them the opportunity to show their films at Cannes. Laura Hutson, sole creator of documentary, "Southern Mentality," won the Jury Award and attended Cannes as well.

"It was fun! We got to dress up in tuxedos and go to premieres that Campus MovieFest provided us all access passes for. There were times, though, where there were tickets to some premieres you

just couldn't get, so you had to stand outside and beg. At one point, I got the entire CMF group to start singing 'Lean on Me' so we could get tickets, and it actually worked!" said Dellinger.

The student filmmakers had the opportunity to meet filmmakers, financiers and the most important international reps in the film business that could help them down the line in their film careers.

Dellinger met a woman from his hometown, Savannah, Georgia, while standing in line for a premiere, who runs Big River Film Festival. He is working on making connections with her for work in the future.

"It is very important to exchange contacts and meet others," said Hutson. "I met a producer from Morocco on my flight from Paris to Cannes, and he gave me so much advice and insight that I needed to hear. I stayed in contact with him all throughout the festival and intend to stay in contact with him. I know down the road if I go to Morocco I can find a job through him. All the people I met might not lead to a job right away, but by staying in contact and building the relationship it could definitely lead to something in the future."

Hutson also had the chance to see 27-year-old Xavier Dolan, Canadian filmmaker, who had four in-competition films in the festival that won awards. "Most of the filmmakers in that part of the competition are world renown directors who are in their 40s-60s. He proves that it can be done at a young age, and it just made me want to work even harder," she said.

In addition to industry veterans, the student filmmakers made connections with other student filmmakers from across the country as part of CMF. Dellinger recalled a night where they all sat around sharing previous projects, scripts and plans for future films.

"It was cool, ya know? You just get to see everybody's different style choices. Especially in the way they did things," he said. "Their whole brand of comedy and our brand of comedy and film styles colliding and mixing. Just talking about ideas."

Reynolds said he plans to meet with these students in the future and to make films together.

The students said the festival wasn't all business, though, and they had fun as well. They were able to see famous actors and directors including Steven Spielberg, George Clooney, Woody Allen, Chris Pine and other celebrities who have served as their role models for making films.

Daudier was commissioned to take photos at a film finance forum. He was encouraged to stay and make connections with filmmakers after the forum but before he even left, he received a call from the Hollywood Reporter asking for his photos to be published in the next issue.

"It was kind of crazy to walk around and see thousands of people holding a magazine that had my photo in it," said Daudier.

Daudier's photograph wasn't the only thing that was noticed at Cannes; The student's films had an impressive turnout.

"We had the opportunity to pack a theatre. Our films, we couldn't even watch them. I couldn't even watch the screening of my film. I couldn't get in. It was just that packed," said Daudier.

After Cannes, the students attended Terminus, CMF's Finals, in Atlanta. Each of the students had the opportunity for their film to be nominated to win an award, and Hutson was nominated for Best Documentary.

She created Southern Mentality to spread awareness about sex-trafficking. She drove from south Georgia to Missouri on Saturday morning, did the interview through the night and drove back home on Sunday.

Her work paid off when she received the award for Best Documentary. Hutson said, "A year ago I didn't think this would be possible. It was such a big dream of mine and to have made it there is incredible."

The students hope that Campus MovieFest will return to Georgia Southern University so others can have the chance they had to compete and maybe even experience the trip of a lifetime.

"It was an amazing experience and I hope CMF comes back to Georgia Southern again so the current students have the same opportunity we had to collaborate and network with people in the industry," said Reynolds.

Business Innovation Group Receives Grant for Veterans Business Outreach Center

JUNE 6, 2016



The Business Innovation Group (BIG) at Georgia Southern University announced today the receipt of a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) that will fund a Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at City Campus in downtown Statesboro.

Georgia Southern is one of six locations to receive funding through this SBA \$1.5 million grant, bringing the total number of VBOCs to 19 nationwide.

"This new Veteran Business Outreach Center supports veterans in leveraging the great skills and qualities they developed during military service toward being a successful business owner," said Terri Denison, SBA's Georgia District director. "Traits like leadership, self-motivation and discipline are instilled in veterans, and it greatly prepares them to be entrepreneurs. Nearly 10 percent of all

U.S. small businesses are veteran-owned, and that is a number we would like to see continue to grow.”

The grant, offered by SBA’s Office of Veterans Business Development, enables each VBOC to provide entrepreneurial training, comprehensive business assessment and mentoring to active duty service members, veterans and service-disabled veterans, National Guard and Reservists and military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business.

“It is a great honor to be named one of only 19 Veteran Business Outreach Centers in the United States,” said Dominique Halaby, director of BIG. “We are excited to add this new program to our growing list of services at the Business Innovation Group, and to be in a position to help Georgia and South Carolina veterans, active duty service members and their families in launching and growing their own business.”

States and regions were selected as potential VBOC sites based on “[Boots to Business](#)” program demand, military installation, and transitioning population data.

The VBOC grant funding competition was open to eligible institutions of higher learning, private organizations or businesses, non-profit community-based organizations, state, local or tribal governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. Each award is made for a base project period of 12 months, with one 12-month renewal option period.

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Student Faculty Research Selected for Award at ACSM Annual Meeting

JUNE 14, 2016



Megan Mormile, left, Nicholas Murray, Ph.D., Nathan D'Amico and Katelyn Grims attended the American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting in Boston.

Georgia Southern College of Health and Human Sciences graduate students Megan Mormile, Nathan D'Amico and Katelyn Grimes, along with assistant professor Nicholas Murray, Ph.D., and associate professor Barry Munkasy, Ph.D., in the School of Health and Kinesiology, received the Clinical Biomechanics Award for their research abstract titled Assessment of Gaze Stability Within 24-48 Hours of Post-Concussion during the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Award is given annually by the American Society of Biomechanics (ASB) to recognize excellence in biomechanics research, and honors the quality of a given research project, as presented in abstract form.

Researchers on the abstract also include Rebecca Reed-Jones, University of Prince Edward Island, and Doug Powell, Campbell University.

Additionally, Murray served as an expert panelist during the Meeting, and was a highlighted speaker during the concussion symposium where he and fellow colleagues discussed advances in science and technology. Mormile, D'Amico and Grimes were all awarded travel grants through the FASEB/MARC program to attend and present at the Meeting.

To learn more about the participants, visit the Georgia Southern University School of Health and Kinesiology [page](#).

Georgia Southern alumna, student receive awards

JULY 1, 2016

The JBQ Charitable Foundation awards Georgia Southern Master's Graduate first JBQ Honorarium

The JBQ Charitable Foundation has awarded the first JBQ Honorarium to Georgia Southern University alumna, Talmeshia Parker ('16).

The [JBQ Charitable Foundation](#) is a non-profit foundation committed to the development of programs in Peru for educators and pre-service educators in collaboration with universities based in the United States of America and Peru.

Parker, who is a graduate of the [Master of Arts in Teaching](#) (MAT) Program, currently teaches English Language Arts to eighth-grade students at Langston Chapel Middle School in Statesboro. As the honorarium recipient, she will accompany Aerin Benavides, president of JBQ, on a five- to six-week trip to Peru, for which all expenses are paid by the award. She will be expected to evaluate ways to boost English-language literacy in Ica, Peru, as well as assess areas to build capacity at the indigenous community schools in the high Andes where access to education, teaching materials and professionals is limited due to their remote location.

"I am honestly on an emotional high after being afforded this opportunity to work alongside elite professionals with the JBQ Charitable Foundation to build English literacy in Peru," said Parker.

Parker will meet with government officials, tour schools, observe classes and design professional development resources for Peruvian teachers. Since she represents both populations, Parker will think of ways to involve university students and/or U.S. teachers.

"When other people think so highly of your work ethic and professionalism to recommend you for such a rewarding experience, it proves that you are exactly where you need to be," she said. "I'm excited to be touring the schools in Peru and gaining real-life insight on how their educational system runs, what resources are available to them, and most importantly how I can help them achieve the goal of increasing English literacy for their society.

"As a recent graduate of Georgia Southern's MAT program, I have learned that an equitable educational experience should be provided for all students no matter their socioeconomic status, ethnic background or academic ability," Parker continued. "As teachers, we are service workers to the community and I am thrilled to solicit that service to other nations."

Helen Ryan Collins Memorial Scholarship awarded to Rachel Dagget

Rachel Dagget was named the inaugural recipient of the Helen Ryan Collins Memorial Scholarship in Irish Studies by the Center for Irish Research and Teaching.

The Helen Ryan Collins Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student each year who is recommended by a faculty member, has a passion for Irish culture, is in good academic standing and has a financial need. It was endowed by Tom Collins and his family to honor the memory of his mother.

Director of the Center for Irish Research and Teaching, Howard Keeley, Ph.D., said, "She truly meets the criteria of the scholarship. She is a conscientious worker who is delightful to interact with."

Dagget is minoring in Irish Studies while pursuing a double major in English and writing and linguistics.

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