

Georgia Southern staff honored with Awards of Excellence

January 11, 2016



2016 Merit Award Winners (L to R): Addie Edwards, Michelle Smith, Lori Mayes, Marcella Stewart, James Grigg, Ashley Lowery, Janet Walker and Logan Franks.

Georgia Southern University honored more than 175 staff members celebrating years of service, and eight Award of Merit winners at the 2016 Staff Awards of Excellence Ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 7, at the Performing Arts Center.

"Georgia Southern is a family, and family starts with people," said Georgia Southern Interim President Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., RN. "From my perspective, that's the staff. On behalf of the administration, the faculty and the students, I want to thank you for keeping us going.

"We call this the greatest University in America. It truly is, and that's because of the people we have here."

The ceremony honored eight staff members earning the Award of Merit:

- Michelle Smith, Information Technology Services
- Addie Edwards, Procurement and Contract Services
- Ashley Lowery, Zach S. Henderson Library
- James Grigg, Facilities Services
- Lori Mayes, Information Technology Services
- Logan Franks, Admissions
- Marcella Stewart, Psychology Department
- Janet Walker, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Advisement Center

Award of Merit nominees are employees who have improved the work environment, exhibited excellent customer service and shown true character and dedication to Georgia Southern's mission. A total of 48 employees were nominated for the award, which is sponsored by Georgia Southern's Staff Council.

Award of Merit recipients are nominated by co-workers or supervisors and are chosen by The Staff Council. Each winners received \$1,000, a Georgia Southern Eagle Medallion or plaque and a certificate of appreciation.

Additionally, the ceremony also honors staff members who have reached five-year landmarks of continuous, full-time service at the University. Years of Service Award recipients each receive a certificate of appreciation and a gift from The University Store.

This year, seven staff members were recognized for 30 years of continuous service at the University: Virginia Thomas, Deborah Champion, Barbara Smith, Barry Hackle, Leroy Moore, Pam Deal and Michael Todd. Susan Nelson and Sherry Smith were honored for 35 years of service at Georgia Southern.

Other Years of Service Award honorees included:

25 Years of Service

Jana Briley, Robert Randolph, Kathryn Gay, Angie Threatte, Pamela Harley, Linda Rushing, Cheryl Donaldson and William Stewart

20 Years of Service

Belinda Wilson, Tina Brookins, Patricia Byrd, Janet Burns, Suzanne Venerable, Gloria Lovette, Gaynell Royal, Sheryl Lewis, Cindy Durden, Theresa Novotny, Gene Sherry, Konrad Godfrey and Ray Hoffman

15 Years of Service

Teresa Thompson, Marcella Stewart, Janet Walker, Tinnie Lee, Perla Middleton, Deborah Johnson, Jodi Caldwell and Jill Forehand

10 Years of Service

Shecara Lovett, Christina Waugh, Kelly Pye, Rex Miller, Belinda Classens, Jody Rushing, Nikki Collins, Darlene Collins, Ronda Durden, Antonio Frison, Karen Hilde, Constance Morgan, Betty Raymond, Michael Head, Craig Brannen, Deltrye Jackson, James Chester, Michael Price, Lee Elbracht, Lorraine Jackson, Vera Mobley, Lakesha Hill, Paul Anderson, Sheila Wentz, Kjersten Barrick, Greer Rahn, Tammy Smith, Samantha Rossi, Lee Porter, Martha Allen, Laura McCullough, William Tatum, Chrystina Wallace, Sylvia Kline, William Sharpe, Deidra Newson, Brett Bacon, Dorsey Baldwin, Jennifer Karrh, Rachel Miller, Gloria Goosby, Elton Hunter and Ron Stalnaker

5 Years of Service

Brenda Albanese, Scott Curley, Daniel McNair, Jenifer Stocking, Spencer Harp, Jessica McLaughlin, Caroline Glover, April Callaway, Deanna Piche, Pamela Davis, Melissa Gast-Goodman, Angelia Huggins, Janice Brown, Sara McNure, Danielle Smith, Theresa Duggar, Sarah Rene, Coco Roberts, Debra Bever, Russell Bozeman, James Morgan, Bud Fleming, Tony Mincey, Cindy Littles, Ramon Roberson, Dwayne Murdaugh, Jeffrey Joyner, Mary Knight, Christopher Peterson, Reamer Burke, Stephanie McCarthy, William McCurdy, Haley Rushing, Sharday Roberts, David Culpepper, Kimberly Packer, Weldon Raymond, Anthony Tremble, Edwin Aviles, Sara Jeffers, Edward Mills, Aaron Ussery, Mirian Eason, Robert Rountree, Sherri Newman, Lawanda Wilson, Maude Huff, Megan Douberly, Christy Yother, Patricia Hall, Gregory Avra, Thomas Thurson, Amy Wilkins-Smith, Joseph Williams, James McGee, Sharon Brown, Ricky Sapp, Patrick Robertson, Shambrielle Lovette, Terry Briley, Shannon Mitchell, Leslie Phillips, Robert Wery, Jason Pollett, Mark Perez-Lopez, Michael Brundage, Amanda Wheeler, John Classens, Gary Noble, Bonnie Wilson, Susan Bunning, Pamela Jones, Paul

Reaves, Patrick Mascoll, Dennis Baker, Andrew Merrifield, John Tucker, Ashlea Anderson, Jeb Barger, Erin Shuman, Kristi Reagin, Charish Williams and Keely Hopkins

Georgia Southern employs more than 1,700 staff members and the Staff Council is a collective voice for those who work in non-faculty employee roles. The Council supports a variety of activities and initiatives to improve the quality of life and effectiveness of the University's dedicated and valuable staff, and hosts the Staff Awards of Excellence Ceremony each year.

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

Tags: [Awards](#)

Georgia Southern Creates Scholarship Fund in memory of Professor Emeritus Dr. Willie J. Burden

JANUARY 11, 2016

The Georgia Southern University Foundation is now collecting contributions for the creation of the "Dr. Willie J. Burden Memorial Scholarship" in memory of the many contributions made to the University by the Professor Emeritus who passed away Dec. 4.

Professor Emeritus Willie J. Burden, Ed.D, a record-setting, Canadian Football Hall of Fame player for the Calgary Stampeders and inductee to the Hall of Fame for the Boys & Girls Club of America (Raleigh, NC), served his tenure at Georgia Southern University until retirement in May 2015. During his time at Georgia Southern, he taught 13 different courses in Sport Management, served as the Undergraduate Program Coordinator for Sport Management and published more than 16 peer-reviewed publications, including four book chapters in books published by national companies related to sport administration, student athlete welfare and coaching administration.

Patrons who wish to contribute to this scholarship fund for students in the Sport Management program may send a check, pay online or call the Georgia Southern University Foundation at (912) 478-2000.

Checks should be made out to "Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc." with the memo line "Dr. Willie J. Burden Memorial," and can be mailed to Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 8053, Statesboro, GA 30460-8053.

Online contributions can be made here. Fill out the form, click the "Designate My Gift" button and enter "Dr. Willie J. Burden Memorial" in the "Processing Instructions" box. Anyone wishing for notification to go directly to the family may enter that information by clicking on the "Memorials and Honorariums" section. The family will receive acknowledgement of all gifts regardless of completion of this section. Payment information will be collected after clicking the "Continue" button.

For more information or questions regarding this fund, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Foundation.

Posted in [My News](#)

South Main Street Pedestrian Crossing

GEORGIA DOT ENHANCING SAFETY FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH INNOVATIVE HYBRID BEACON TECHNOLOGY

Statesboro, Ga. – Georgia DOT announces the activation of the brand new hybrid beacon, commonly known as a “HAWK” signal on US 301/SR 73 at the entrance to Georgia Southern University in Statesboro on Tuesday, January 5. Georgia Southern University students begin the new semester Monday, January 11 with a safer method to access the facilities. This safety enhancement project should elevate the level of safety for college students and other pedestrians crossing a multi-lane roadway.

HAWK stands for High-intensity Activated Cross Walk, a device that helps pedestrians safely cross roadways while minimizing traffic delays. HAWKs are a type of traffic signal that is generally placed mid-block in high pedestrian areas and is designed to stop traffic when activated to allow pedestrians to cross safely.

“Georgia DOT’s top priority is driver and pedestrian safety,” stated District Engineer Karon Ivery. “Although the HAWK Signal is very similar to the pedestrian’s view of a normal traffic signal, the motorists view will be quite different so, we urge drivers to use extreme caution until they become more familiar with this type of signal.”

The HAWK signal remains dark to keep traffic flowing until the pedestrian button has been pushed to activate the signal. The HAWK signal has several phases that drivers should be aware of: flashing yellow, indicating motorists should prepare to stop; solid yellow, indicating motorists must come to a stop; solid red, indicating motorists must not cross the stop bar; and toggle red (back and forth motion), meaning once you stop and the pedestrians have cleared you can proceed through the intersection. If you are the second motorist in line you should pull up to the stop bar and make sure the roadway is clear and the pedestrians have crossed before you proceed. A dark signal means for motorists to proceed through the intersection.

HAWK crosswalks are effective and safe when used properly. Improving pedestrian safety via HAWK signals is contingent upon compliance by pedestrians and motorists. Georgia DOT wants to remind motorists that roadway safety should be everyone’s priority.

How does a HAWK Signal operate?

INSTRUCTIONS

Drivers

...will see this

...will do this



Proceed with Caution



Slow Down
(Pedestrian has activated the push button)



Prepare to Stop



STOP!
(Pedestrian in Crosswalk)



STOP!
Proceed with Caution if Clear



Proceed if Clear

Pedestrians

...will see this

...will do this



Push the Button to Cross



Wait



Continue to Wait



Start Crossing



Continue Crossing
(Countdown Signal)



Push the Button to Cross

Georgia Southern University debuts new Health Services facility

JANUARY 8, 2016



Georgia Southern University's Health Services held a ribbon-cutting ceremony today for its new campus location at 984 Plant Drive (across from the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center) and provided the public with a first look at the 39,000-square-foot facility. Students may utilize services in the new location beginning Monday, Jan. 11.

"What excites us most about this new facility is that it was born out of a legitimate need, not because we wanted to be a showpiece on campus, but because we need to be able to meet the appointment demands and expectations of our patient population. We could not do that in the old facility — literally there was no room to grow. This new facility will now allow us to grow to meet the demand," said Dr. Brian DeLoach, medical director for Health Services.

The contemporary building provides an expanded and inviting check-in and waiting area and boasts a total of 48 exam rooms, 12 of which are dedicated to women's health, an increase of more than three times the number of exam rooms at its previous location to better accommodate patient

needs. The new facility also will feature expanded pharmacy, x-ray, laboratory and immunization areas, in addition to offering new services, including physical therapy, available this spring. The new location is also home to Eagle Eye Care.

"The students and the Health Services staff are very excited about this new facility. Our students now have access to a state-of-the-art facility as well as continued quality care for their health care needs. There are very few universities in the University System of Georgia (USG) that have this kind of facility," said Diane Norris, director of Health Services.

An \$8.5 million project, the building features sustainable elements including LED lighting in all public spaces, the use of natural lighting and low flow toilets.

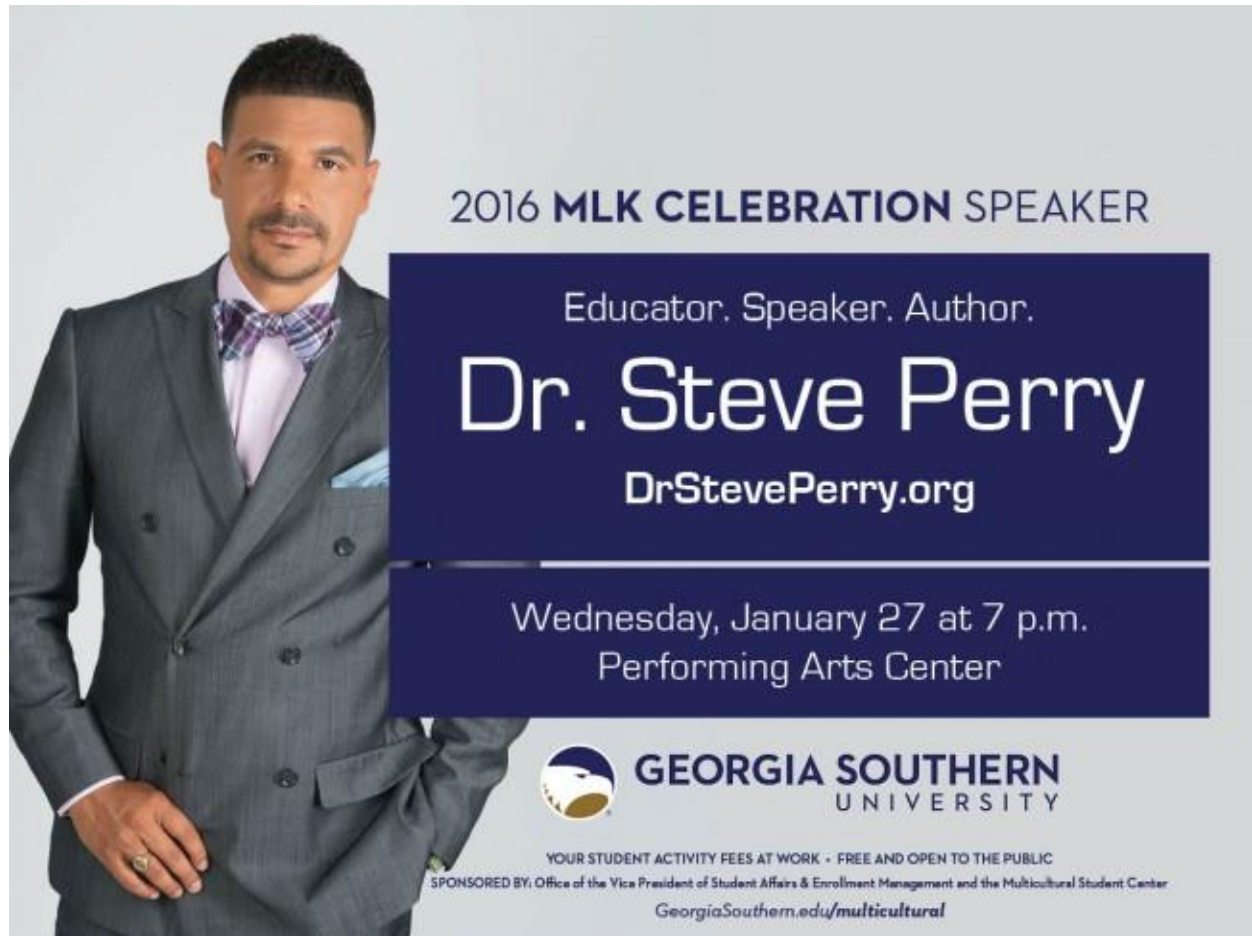
Georgia Southern University Health Services' mission is to meet or exceed the student patients' full range of needs and expectations that relate to the delivery of healthcare services — medical, counseling, educational and wellness – while providing them with cost-effective, high-quality care in an efficient manner with a focus on educating students on how to be knowledgeable healthcare consumers. For more information on Health Services at Georgia Southern, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/HealthServices

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Tags: [Health Services](#)

Georgia Southern to host Dr. Steve Perry for annual MLK Celebration

DECEMBER 2, 2015




2016 MLK CELEBRATION SPEAKER

Educator. Speaker. Author.

Dr. Steve Perry

DrStevePerry.org

Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

 **GEORGIA SOUTHERN**
UNIVERSITY

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK - FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SPONSORED BY: Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and the Multicultural Student Center
GeorgiaSouthern.edu/multicultural

Georgia Southern will welcome Dr. Steve Perry, founder and principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford, Connecticut, to campus for the University's 2016 MLK Celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 847 Plant Drive, Statesboro.

Perry was featured in CNN's Black in America series, and is the most talked about, innovative educator on the scene today. As the principal of Capital Prep, Perry has seen 100 percent of the predominantly low-income, minority, first generation high school graduates go on to attend four-year colleges every year since its first class graduated in 2006.

Born into his family's third generation of poverty on his mother's 16th birthday, Perry believes that the success of a life is determined by where you end, not where you start. It is this philosophy that

inspired him to transform the lives of poor and minority children by providing them with access to a college education.

"We are so excited to bring Dr. Perry, who is a passionate, hardworking and dedicated advocate for social justice through education, to be our 2016 MLK Jr. speaker," said Dorsey Baldwin, director of Georgia Southern's Multicultural Student Center. "Dr. Perry's commitment to improving the lives of young people is truly admirable."

In addition to serving as the principal of Capital Prep, Perry is an education contributor for CNN and MSNBC, an Essence Magazine columnist, best-selling author and host of the No. 1 docudrama for TVONE, "Save My Son."

Perry also is a strong advocate of personal and civic responsibility in all aspects of life. He emphasizes the social issues that aim at building up both the individual and the community so the next generation can be better contributing members of society.

"Dr. Perry's commitment to education for all is a vibrant and living testimony to Dr. King's legacy of striving for equality for all," said Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Teresa Thompson, Ph.D. "We are pleased to have him to share his passion for social justice through education with our students."

The annual celebration to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and the University's Multicultural Student Center. Visit www.DrStevePerry.org.

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Tags: [Dr. Steve Perry](#), [Georgia Southern](#), [Georgia Southern University, Jr.](#), [Martin Luther King, MLK](#), [MLK Celebration](#), [MLK Jr.](#)

Georgia Southern Theatre & Performance Presents International Performer Bill Bowers in his Award Winning Production "It Goes Without Saying"

JANUARY 4, 2016



STATESBORO, Ga. — The Theatre & Performance program with the help of a CLEC grant brings Broadway star and professional mime Bill Bowers to Georgia Southern University for a special performance of his one man show "It Goes Without Saying" on Saturday, Jan. 23. The performance will be in the Black Box Theatre at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$3.00 for all.

Join us for this fun and unflinching look at the life and mimes of Bill Bowers. "It Goes Without Saying" takes the audience on a scenic tour of Bill's life thus far: from growing up gay in the wilds of Montana, his outrageous jobs as a performer, studying with Marcel Marceau, and the whirlwind of working on Broadway. Bill observes the incredible power that silence can wield – whether on stage, between family members, among neighbors, or when we are alone. Bill talks (yes, talks) with sensitivity, precision, and constant humor about a life lived out loud.

Contact the box office for information at 912-478-5379 for reservations.

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 faculty continue excellence in 2015

DECEMBER 14, 2015

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 semester.

Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology

Mike Jackson, Ph.D., P.E., chair and professor of Civil Engineering and Construction Management, demonstrated extraordinary leadership and outstanding service to the University System of Georgia community throughout the year. For this service, he was recognized as the silver winner of the [2015 Chancellor's Service Excellence Leadership Award](#). Jackson's nomination was among 275 nominations, and his win marks Georgia Southern's sixth statewide customer service recognition award. In the 2014-15 academic year, Dr. Jackson incorporated a significant service learning component into the civil engineering and construction management programs. The department promotes community immersion and experiential service learning projects as the central theme of a transformative educational experience.

College of Health and Human Sciences

Faculty from the University's Nutrition and Food Science DPD program and the Department of Biology, Rebecca Black, M.S., R.D.N., Amy Jo Riggs, Ph.D., R.D., L.D., Laura Frost, Ph.D., and intern Crystal Kalaani were invited to present a poster session of their research at the National Kidney Foundation 2015 Clinical Meeting in Dallas, Texas. The research, funded by a Georgia Southern faculty development grant, focused on the usefulness of biochemical tests, anti-inflammatory markers (IL-10) and anthropometric measurements in delineating starvation-related malnutrition from chronic-disease related malnutrition in a population of medically stable, End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients undergoing hemodialysis. An abstract of the findings of the research was also published in the March 2015 edition of the Journal of Renal Nutrition.

The National Youth-At-Risk Center (NYAR) awarded a research grant to two Georgia Southern University professors for a study titled "The Impact of CrossFit Intervention for Youth-At-Risk at the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County." In an effort to explore how an afterschool intervention

program can impact middle school-aged youth who have been identified as being at-risk, Christina Gipson, Ph.D., assistant professor of Sport Management in the School of Health and Kinesiology, and Michael Moore, Ed.D., professor of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading in the College of Education, partnered with the Bulloch County Boys and Girls Club and CrossFit Boro. In addition, Glenn P. "Trey" Burdette III, Ed.D., associate professor of Coaching Education, and Charles "Hal" Wilson Jr., Ph.D., assistant professor of Coaching Education, added their expertise to form a solid research team for the program called Crossfit Boro Prepared for Anything – Youth Edition.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Youssef Salhi, M.A., a lecturer in Arabic, was recently given the opportunity to participate in the Qatar Exchange Fellowship/Malone Fellowship. As one of just five professors from American universities selected, Salhi will travel to Qatar to meet with government officials, social and business leaders, educators, students, journalists and artists.

History professor Craig Roell, Ph.D., earned first place in the 2015 Presidio La Bahia Awards for his 2013 book *Matamoros and the Texas Revolution*. Roell earned \$1,200 for his accomplishment and promotion of research into Texas heritage and Spanish Colonial influence.

Director of the Center for Irish Research & Teaching, Howard Keeley, Ph.D., received a \$35,000 grant from the Irish State Department for the Wexford-Savannah Axis Heritage project, which will assist with establishing a high-quality online presence for the project. It will also allow Keeley and the student researchers associated with the Center to continue and deepen their research focused on this significant but under-researched transatlantic migration pathway between Wexford, a county in southeastern Ireland, and the port city of Savannah, Georgia. In the mid-19th century, a direct maritime link opened between. According to one estimate, by 1860 more than 56 percent of Savannah's Irish-born population was from Wexford. These and other Irish immigrants became leaders in business, trade unionism, health care, education, and politics in Savannah and is one of the main reasons that the city now hosts the second largest St. Patrick's Day festival in North America. The project is a unique collaboration between the University's Center for Irish Research & Teaching and the Georgia Historical Society, as well as two Irish partners: the School of Humanities at Waterford Institute of Technology and the John F. Kennedy Trust.

Lisa A. Costello, Ph.D., has been named the new Director of Women and Gender Studies (WGST) by Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Curtis Ricker, D.A., and will begin her duties at the start of the spring semester. Costello has served over eight years in the University's Department of Writing and Linguistics. She was promoted and tenured at the associate professor level in 2013, served as the interim director of the WGST Program in 2009 and has been a core faculty member of the program since her initial hire. Costello's work is interdisciplinary, and her research intersects rhetoric and composition, gender studies and Holocaust studies. She is currently working on a book project about Holocaust memory and gender tentatively titled *American Cultural Memory and the Holocaust: Per(Form)ing Gender*.

College of Science and Mathematics

Royal Society B Journal picked up research by biology Professor Christine Bedore's, Ph.D., this month. Duke University published "[Camouflaged Cuttlefish Employ Electrical Stealth](#)," an article and video recognizing Bedore's work.

Research by biology Professor Christian Cox, Ph.D., also was recently published. His work with "The metabolic cost of mounting an immune response in male brown anoles" made the cover of the [Journal of Experimental Zoology](#) volume 323 issue 10.

Geology Professors Robert Kelly Vance, Ph.D., James Reichard, Ph.D., and Fredrick Rich, Ph.D., received funding for their work in Hydrology, [Investigation of the Shallow Hydrogeologic System on St. Catherine's Island to Define Salt Water Intrusion Pathways and the Potential for Shallow-Deep Aquifer Communication](#), as one of seven new awards from the Georgia Sea Grant College Program.

Visiting scholar Natasha Rudenko produced a clinical manuscript in collaboration with Jim Oliver Jr. and Georgia Southern University that was recently accepted for publication by *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*. Their work will continue to have an impact on Lyme disease and the antibiotics used to treat it.

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Tags: [Faculty](#)

College of Health and Human Sciences students embrace service opportunities

DECEMBER 18, 2015



Eight Georgia Southern Sport Management students along with Assistant Professor of Sport Management, Christina Gipson, Ph.D., spent the University's Thanksgiving break volunteering at the AdvoCare Invitational, Nov. 26, 27 and 29, at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex near Orlando, Florida. Each year, ESPN hosts a weekend long affair at the Walt Disney World Resort where participating college basketball teams practice, play and enjoy the Disney World Resort Theme Parks. During the four day event, the students obtained hands-on experience working in the ticket office, working behind the scenes, and shadowing media broadcasting. Students also had the opportunity to

network with sport management professionals, Lou Holtz and Dick Vitale, during a two hour discussion panel.



The School of Human Ecology Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design students spent Dec. 10 delivering shirts to children at the Statesboro Head Start. As a final project in Apparel I, Assistant Professor Rachel Eike, Ph.D., placed students into small production teams to produce two children's wear button-up the front shirts that would be given to a child in the community in need. Eike stated that the shirts produced through the generous

donation of fabric received from Mrs. Amy Floyd and reported that the idea to have the students give back to the community with their final projects came to her at a conference, where another faculty member shared that their students partnered up with local community to construct projects. For the past two semesters, the Apparel I students have made shirts and have stored them in Eike's office. After the students finished their projects this semester, they had roughly 20 shirts completed.

By donating the shirts, Eike hopes that she was able to “teach the students about giving to others.” Arrangements were made with the Statesboro Head Start for the students to deliver the shirts and meet with the children. The students enjoyed being able to give back to the community and feel it was a positive experience.

Tyson Summers Announces 2016 Georgia Southern Football Staff

Group of assistants have accounted for numerous national, conference and state championships



STATESBORO, Ga. - Georgia Southern head football coach [Tyson Summers](#) announced Wednesday his 2016 coaching staff, his first staff at the helm of the Eagles. All hires are pending final approval. This group of coaches has accounted for numerous national, conference and state championships during their time on the sidelines and has ties from all over the state of Georgia. The new hires have been a part of three national championships, seven conference titles, four state titles, 15 bowls teams and 14 NCAA Playoff squads.

The on-field coaching staff will include, in alphabetical order: [Pat Bastien](#), [Lorenzo "Zo" Costantini](#), [David Dean](#), [Chris Foster](#), [Rance Gillespie](#), [Jimmy Lindsey](#), [Chad Lunsford](#), [Allen Mogridge](#) and [Jeremy Rowell](#). Summers also announced the hiring of [Travis Taylor](#), [Steve Dennis](#)

and [Dr. Tredell Dorsey](#) to his staff, as well.

Lunsford, who served as the Eagles' recruiting coordinator and tight ends coach the past two seasons, has agreed to return to the staff for an eighth season, his fourth in his current stint at Georgia Southern. After working with the wide receivers in 2013, Lunsford has worked the past two seasons with the tight ends while also serving as the recruiting coordinator. In 2016, he will continue to coach the tight ends and will add the role of special teams coordinator to his responsibilities.

"My family and I are extremely excited about remaining at Georgia Southern," Lunsford said. "We are very thankful to Coach Summers for the opportunity and look forward to continuing to be a part of the tradition and history of this special place. As a coach, I am fired up about my new role as special teams coordinator for the Georgia Southern Eagles. This is a great opportunity for me to move into such an important position and I am looking forward to continuing the success of Georgia Southern Football."

Lunsford's tight ends have contributed heavily to the option running attack the past two seasons as the GS offense led the FBS in yards per game on the ground each of those years. This past year, the Eagles led the nation in rushing touchdowns, as well. The Eagles won the Sun Belt Championship in 2014 and the GoDaddy Bowl title this past season. On the recruiting side, Lunsford helped engineer signing classes which featured 22 players and ranked in the top half of the Sun Belt in 2015, also ranked near the top of the Sun Belt in 2014, and is currently ranked as one of the top classes in the conference nearing signing day.

Summers on Lunsford:

"[Chad Lunsford](#) is someone who is 'True Blue' and has done very good work in his time here at Georgia Southern. I'm excited that he will be returning to work with the Eagles and build on what's he's done here over the past three years."

Here's a look at the new on-field coaching hires for 2016, in alphabetical order:

[Pat Bastien](#) - Linebackers Coach

Former college standout [Pat Bastien](#) will head the linebackers for the Eagles. Bastien comes to Statesboro from UCF, where he was a defensive graduate assistant the previous two seasons.

A native of Immokalee, Florida, Bastien had a stellar career at UAB from 2009-2013. He appeared in 44 games, starting his final two years and was captain as a senior. Bastien graduated from UAB in May 2013 with a degree in sports leadership. He played tight end and defensive end under head coach Israel Gallegos at Immokalee High and was selected to the Collier County High School All-Star team.

Summers on Bastien:

"Pat is going to be a very good fit for us as the linebackers coach, partially because he is very young and energetic, but also because he both played and coached the position at UCF in the defensive scheme that we will run here. He has been around some of the better coaches at that position and was an outstanding player. He has done an outstanding job so far as both a teacher and coach and I am excited about the opportunity for him to continue to build on the defense that we have in place."

Zo Costantini - Defensive Coordinator

Costantini comes to Statesboro after serving as the defensive line coach for UCF and will be the defensive coordinator for the Eagles. In his second stint at UCF, Costantini coached three seasons with the Knights, working as their defensive line coach. Relentless on the recruiting trail, Costantini was responsible at UCF for recruiting the Florida Panhandle (from Escambia County to Franklin and Liberty County), southern Alabama, Houston, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan and Mississippi.

A native of Houston, Texas, Costantini has been a defensive line coach at five schools in his career. He spent 2012 with Southern Miss after serving on the UAB staff from 2007-11.

UCF's sacks total increased from 29 in 2013 to 36 in 2014, in large part to Costantini's guidance up front. Both of those numbers led the American Athletic Conference. The Knights also led the conference those two seasons in tackles for loss. Eight players had multiple sacks, highlighted by Thomas Niles with 7.5 and Jaryl Mamea with 7.0. Both of those Knights went on to be named to the All-American Athletic Conference Second Team. With the Knights ranking in the top 20 in several defensive categories that year, they produced a 9-4 overall record, received a trip to the Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl and won back-to-back league titles. Costantini was part of the memorable 2013 season in which UCF won a school-record 12 games, the American Athletic Conference title and the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. The Knights finished ranked No. 10 in the country as they defeated two top-10 teams (No. 6/5 Baylor and No. 8/6 Louisville) along the way. The UCF defense held 10 of its 13 opponents to under their scoring averages during 2013 even though it used several freshmen

throughout the season. And UCF amassed 29 sacks while giving up just 22.

Summers on Costantini:

"Zo Costantini is someone I've worked with a lot over the past decade. He's been a part of several great staffs and I know he's a great fit for the defensive tradition we have here. He has a great football mind and it's exciting to have him on board here at Georgia Southern."

[David Dean](#) - Co-Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach

Two-time national champion head coach [David Dean](#) will serve as the co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach at Georgia Southern for head coach [Tyson Summers](#). Dean, who had unprecedented success in his nine seasons as the Valdosta State head coach, has proven his name belongs among the top in the nation when discussing the best coaches in the NCAA Division II's ranks.

Dean twice led his team to the pinnacle of the NCAA Division II football world as his squad won national championships in both 2007 and 2012. Additionally, he led his squad to four more appearances in the NCAA Playoffs and tallied a career record of 79 wins against just 27 losses, a winning percentage of .745.

Twice Dean was named the American Football Coaches Association Division II Coach of the Year, having accomplished the feat in both 2007 and 2012 and received the organization's Super Region II Coach of the Year honor in 2010. The individual accolades have not been reserved just for Dean during his tenure, as he had a player receive All-America recognition on 27 occasions, including six in his final season, while a Blazer was named All-Gulf South Conference 66 times under his watch.

Summers on Dean:

"Coach Dean is one of the most well-respected head coaches in the country. He has done an outstanding job as both a head coach and play caller during his tenure at Valdosta State, winning three national titles [two as a head coach, one as the OC]. He's also a fantastic developer of wide receiver talent. His knowledge of the passing game is top-notch and he's going to help us expand that facet of our offense, along with the screen game. He also has great recruiting ties to the state of Georgia, which is one of our top priorities as a staff."

[Chris Foster](#) - Running Backs Coach

[Chris Foster](#) will head up the talented stable of running backs coach at Georgia Southern. Foster has plenty of experience coaching the position as he brings 12 years of experience at three previous

stops prior to Statesboro.

Foster comes to Georgia Southern from Maryville (TN) College, where he spent the 2015 season as a running backs coach. In his lone season there, he coached a rushing attack that averaged 257.4 yards per game and had 29 rushing touchdowns. Deshjon Whitlock averaged 5.9 yards per carry on his 154 attempts, accumulating 906 total rushing yards while scoring 13 touchdowns en route to first-team all-conference honors. Prior to Maryville, Foster spent three seasons at Appalachian State, coaching a pair of his pupils to two of the best campaigns by running backs in school history. His efforts produced seven all-conference players and a pair of FCS All-Americans.

Summers on Foster:

"Chris is well-known as one of the best recruiters in the state of Georgia, particularly the Atlanta area. He is known to be a dynamic running backs coach and has developed good backs everywhere he has been. He's an exciting addition to our staff."

[Rance Gillespie](#) - Co-Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach

[Rance Gillespie](#) returns to Georgia Southern as the co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Gillespie, who has previous ties to Georgia Southern Football as the offensive coordinator of the Eagles from 2007-2009, found success at the high school level as well, winning a pair state championships in the state of Georgia.

Gillespie has spent the past six seasons as the head coach of Valdosta (GA) High School, picking up 49 wins at one of the winningest high school programs in American football history. The Wildcats reached the state playoffs in each of Gillespie's seasons, including a quarterfinal berth in 2010. In his first tenure at GS, the 2008 and 2009 offensive attacks led the Southern Conference in passing offense and also ranked high nationally.

Prior to his first stint in Statesboro, Gillespie led Peach County (GA) High School to the Class AAA state championship in 2005 and 2006, the first two state titles in school history. He posted a 65-16 record as head coach during his tenure, including an impressive 50-8 mark his last four seasons. From 1995-99, he served as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator. During his tenure at Peach County, dating back to the 1995 season, Gillespie had every starting quarterback signed to a college scholarship.

Summers on Gillespie:

"[Rance Gillespie](#) is one of the best developers and teachers of the quarterback position in our state.

He's a great fit for our offense to expand the gun option attack we already have in place. In 2007, he called plays for Georgia Southern and led the country in rushing with Jayson Foster winning the Walter Payton Award. He has an outstanding background as a head coach who has won multiple state titles and also has been an offensive coordinator in the college ranks. He will obviously bring a ton of help to us in recruiting with all of his ties to the state of Georgia, as well."

[Jimmy Lindsey](#) - Defensive Line Coach

Lindsey comes to Statesboro after serving at Furman the previous four seasons. At Furman, Lindsey spent four seasons as the defensive line coach, adding the title of assistant head coach for the final season. Lindsey will coach the defensive line for the Eagles.

In his first season with the Paladins in 2012, Lindsey directed an improved defensive front that featured All-SoCon end Josh Lynn and a pass rush that netted 25 sacks. In 2013, Lindsey crafted a unit that helped key Furman to a SoCon championship, headlined by consensus All-SoCon end Gary Wilkins. In 2014, Wilkins completed his collegiate career ascent under Lindsey by landing All-America honors en route to signing a free agent contract with the Oakland Raiders. In 2015, freshman defensive lineman Jaylan Reid garnered SoCon All-Freshman Team honors.

Lindsey joined the Paladin program following two seasons as defensive line and special teams coach at Chattanooga, his alma mater. In his short stint at UTC, the second of his coaching career, he helped mold a Mocs' defensive front into one of the best in the SoCon in 2011.

Summers on Lindsey:

"Jimmy has built a reputation as a top-notch defensive line coach from his work at Furman and Chattanooga and he's someone who brings impressive credentials as a recruiter to our state."

[Allen Mogridge](#) - Offensive Line Coach

A veteran of the college ranks in the coaching profession, [Allen Mogridge](#) will coach the offensive line for head coach [Tyson Summers](#). Mogridge began his UCF career as its tight ends and special teams coach in 2012 before working with Temple's offensive line in 2013. He came back to the Knights as their tight ends and H-backs coach in 2014, and finished his first year as the offensive line coach in 2015.

Mogridge helped mentor the Knights to a 9-4 overall record, a spot in the Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl and an American Athletic Conference title in 2014. Tight ends Justin Tukes and Kevin Miller along with H-back Joseph Puopolo were key contributors throughout the year, with Tukes closing

out his career with 30 receptions overall.

With the Owls, Mogridge's offensive line protected true freshman quarterback P.J. Walker, who broke out with a 60.8 completions percentage and 20 touchdowns compared to eight interceptions. Temple rushed for 17 touchdowns as well.

UCF was dominant on special teams in 2012 as the Knights went 10-4 and won the C-USA East Division title as well as the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl.

Summers on Mogridge:

"Allen is one of the best fundamental offensive line coaches in the country and has worn several different hats during his career, working with the likes of Butch Davis and George O'Leary. He has been a recruiting coordinator, special teams coordinator, offensive line coach and running backs coach and he has been on the ground floor of running an offense 'tempo' similar to what we will want to run. He has also done an outstanding job as a recruiter over the years with ties to the entire southeast."

[Jeremy Rowell](#) - Defensive Backs Coach

Rowell is a veteran coach who brings 15 seasons of college experience to Statesboro, including six as a defensive coordinator. He has spent the past three seasons coaching at the high school level, helping lead Colquitt County (GA) High to a pair of GHSA Class 1-AAAAAA state championships. In his final season at CCHS, the Packers went 15-0 and finished as national champions by High School Football America and were ranked No. 2 in the country by USA Today. Rowell will be the defensive backs coach for Georgia Southern.

A native of Crestview, Florida, Rowell spent 15 seasons at Troy University, the final six as the Trojans' defensive coordinator. He was promoted to defensive coordinator in 2005 after six seasons overseeing the defensive backs. From 2006-2010, the Trojans won the Sun Belt Conference title outright or shared the title each of those five seasons.

Summers on Rowell:

"Jeremy has done big things at the college level with his work at Troy for 15 years and then what he's done down at Colquitt County High School in winning a national championship. I'm really impressed with his body of work and excited about what he brings to this program."

Here's a look at the new off-field coaching hires for 2016, in alphabetical order:

[Steve Dennis](#) - Director of Football Administration

Former Troy director of athletics [Steve Dennis](#) is the new director of football administration at Georgia Southern. Dennis spent seven full years running the Troy athletics department and saw his student-athletes flourish both on the field and in the classroom. The Trojan student-athletes regularly posted grade point averages of 3.0 or better, allowing Troy to enjoy the highest level of success possible under the NCAA's Academic Progress Report for the 2008-09 and the 2009-10 school years as all 16 NCAA sports registered above the mandated 92.5 percent. Under his tutelage, Troy's baseball program had 17 players drafted or signed to professional contracts while the football program sent 27 players into professional football, including first-round draft picks DeMarcus Ware and Leodis McKelvin.

The Troy football program was especially successful under his watchful eye. The Trojans won five consecutive Sun Belt Conference titles and appeared in four bowl games during his tenure as director of athletics and Troy led the Sun Belt Conference in football attendance in five of his final six seasons.

His tenure as Athletics Director was marked by construction and growth of Troy University's athletics facilities. The soccer and track teams moved into a brand-new facility. Riddle-Pace Field underwent \$5 million in renovations that included the construction of the Lott Baseball Complex. Veterans Memorial Stadium saw the addition of two new luxury boxes and prior to the 2012 season a brand new playing surface. The crowning achievement of the facility improvements under Dennis was the new Trojan Arena that opened for the 2012-13 basketball season. It is also the home of the Troy volleyball team and houses the Troy University Sports Hall of Fame.

Externally, Dennis was instrumental in the formation of the Trojan Warriors, the athletic department's booster club, as well as "The Legion," a student support group. Both groups grew to more than 1,000 members in a short time and continued to grow annually. The athletics department also entered into a marketing agreement with IMG College, an agreement that was renewed in 2009. Other external accomplishments have included chartering the "T" Letterman's Club as a chapter of the Troy University National Alumni Association and the establishment of the Al Lucas Endowment for Student-Athlete Excellence.

Summers on Dennis:

"Steve has a wealth of knowledge and experience as both a coach and an administrator. As an

athletic director at Troy for seven years, he really had an impact on the amount of money that was raised as well as the facility improvements that were made during his tenure. Being from Macon, he recruited this area as an assistant coach for Pat Dye for a number of years and has won SEC championships as both a coach and an administrator."

[Dr. Tredell Dorsey](#) - Director of Strength & Conditioning

[Dr. Tredell Dorsey](#) has over 15 years of experience in the field and nine years as head strength and conditioning coach with stops at UCF, Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Delaware State University, Alabama State University and Cleveland State University. Dorsey will take over as director of strength & conditioning at Georgia Southern for the Eagles' football program after spending four years as the assistant director of strength & conditioning at UCF, working directly with football and track & field.

Prior to UCF, Dorsey spent two years, from 2002-2004 as assistant director of player development at Georgia Tech under the leadership of Ed Ellis. In 2004-2005, he was the Sports Performance Director at Velocity Sports Performance in Cordova, Tennessee, and spent three years (2005-2008) as the head strength coach at Georgia State University, overseeing 17 sports. From 2008-2009, Dorsey worked as the assistant athletic director for strength & conditioning at Delaware State University, while he was the head strength coach for football and 16 other sports for two years from 2008-2009, and the head strength coach the final three years (2010-2013).

Summers on Dorsey:

"Tredell has been a head strength & conditioning coach at the FCS level at Alabama State and has worked with some of the best people in the business, including Ed Ellis and Scott Sinclair. I was able to work with him first-hand at UCF and he did an outstanding job during the season when we went to the Fiesta Bowl."

[Travis Taylor](#) - Director of Football Operations

[Travis Taylor](#) will be the new director of football operations for head coach [Tyson Summers](#). Taylor, from Unadilla, Georgia, spent two seasons with Western Kentucky as the assistant director of football operations. In his first season, WKU went 8-4 and won the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl over Central Michigan. The Hilltoppers won 12 games in 2015, highlighted by an undefeated conference record, WKU's first appearance in the top 25, and a Conference-USA championship. The Hilltoppers defeated South Florida in the Miami Beach Bowl 45-35, ending the season with a 12-2 record.

He re-located to WKU after five seasons at UAB, spending the final two as the director of football operations for the Blazers, where Summers coached from 2007-11.

Taylor played at Valdosta State from 2004-07 and was a three-year starter for the Blazers at wide receiver. He was a part of the 2004 and 2007 Valdosta State teams that captured NCAA Division II national championships.

Summers on Taylor:

"Travis is coming to us from Western Kentucky where he did an outstanding job in football operations. He was part of their football team which took off the last two years under Coach Jeff Brohm. He was also the director of football operations at UAB and was a fantastic player at Valdosta State, winning two national championships. He is from south Georgia and knows the area very well so will obviously bring those ties with him."

2016 Georgia Southern Football Staff

[Tyson Summers](#) - head coach

Lorenzo "Zo" Costantini - defensive coordinator

[Rance Gillespie](#) - co-offensive coordinator/quarterbacks

[David Dean](#) - co-offensive coordinator/wide receivers

[Pat Bastien](#) - linebackers

[Chris Foster](#) - running backs

[Jimmy Lindsey](#) - defensive line

[Chad Lunsford](#) - tight ends/special teams coordinator

[Allen Mogridge](#) - offensive line

[Jeremy Rowell](#) - defensive backs

[Travis Taylor](#) - director of football operations

[Steve Dennis](#) - director of football administration

[Dr. Tredell Dorsey](#) - director of strength & conditioning

[Chris Ball](#) - video coordinator