The George-Anne

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The student fee has increased from $100 to $200. Where does this money go? What does it do? A look at your ...

Dollars and cents

School administrators talk about your money and where it goes

Charles MINSHEW • Editor-In-Chief

As a result of a mandatory fee doubling this semester, Georgia Southern students will contribute $3.5 million to relieving budget woes for the University System of Georgia. The new $200 fee was reflected on invoices that students paid by Monday.

Daad Rizk, director of the Bursar’s Office, said that students will have contributed $3,522,400 by the time that invoices are closed and processed. According to Rizk, this number may fluctuate depending upon the number of students who withdraw from the university.

See FEES Page 3
Monday, January 18th
9:00 PM - 11:00 PM Basketball Officials Clinic
RAC Seminar Room

Tuesday, January 19th
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Intramural Basketball Entries Due
CRI Member Services
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Dr. Michael Eric Dyson
Performing Arts Center

Wednesday, January 20th
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM New Student Organization Chartering
Russell Union 2084
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Free Preview of Swim Lessons
RAC Aquatic Center
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM Inner Tube Water Polo
RAC Aquatic Center

Thursday, January 21st
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Wheelchair Basketball Demo
Russell Union
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM New Student Organization Chartering
Russell Union 2047
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM Wheelchair Basketball
RAC

Friday, January 22nd
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM OSLCE: MLK Day Service
Russell Union Rotunda
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats

Saturday, January 23rd
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Sea Kayaking 101 Clinic
Southern Adventures / RAC Aquatic Center
Fees
from page 1

Rzik added that over $7.5 million has been earned since the inception of the original institution fee, which was assessed beginning in the spring 2009 semester. That fee was $100. The Board of Regents determined in November 2009 that the fee should be increased. As a result, the fee for GSU students doubled to $200.

Director of Financial Aid Connie Murphey said the HOPE Scholarship does not cover the additional fee since it is not a part of tuition or the $350 in fees already covered by HOPE.

John Millsaps, a spokesman for the Board of Regents, said that all of the money raised from the institutional fee stays at the university.

Millsaps said, “We don’t tell institutions your allocation from the state is $x amount and of that you’re going to spend this much money on painting the hallways in the English department and this much on paying salaries in the math department.”

Millsaps added that the money is received by the institution in a lump sum and then it is up to the university to use the money. He added that there is no way to determine specifically where money is spent through the university.

According to Assistant Controller Cam Reagin, the purpose of the institutional fee is to replace money that the university has lost during the economic crisis. There is no set use for the funds except to use them to offset budget cuts.

“The funds are used primarily for the university’s core operating costs – faculty and staff salaries, utilities, instruction and instructional support departmental budgets, for example,” Reagin said. “These are not incremental funds, but rather replace a portion of the monies lost due to budget reductions.”

The budget reductions have been steep. Teresa Thompson, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, said that the budget has seen major cuts over the past year or two. She added, however, that increased enrollment has helped the budget.

“For example, the university has received about a $20 million budget cut over the past year or two,” Thompson said. “We’ve had an increase in enrollment, so that helps us in being able to continue to supply the services [to students].”

Reagin added that the decision to implement fees on students was handed down from the Board of Regents and not individual institutions.

He said that he feels that the Board of Regents put much thought into the decision to increase fees, noting that faculty and staff were furloughed before students were impacted.

“Going back 10 years ago, the Regents have been very, very focused on student fees,” Millsaps said. “There’s been legislation that changes how HOPE covers student fees, so the increases and new fees don’t get covered by HOPE. That makes the regents very sensitive.”

Since Spring 2008, student fees have increased by $260. This increase includes the $200 institutional fee. The other fees that have increased include the RAC expansion, technology and transportation fees, just to name a few.

According to the Board of Regents, there fee has a sunset date of June 30, 2012. Millsaps said that there is no way to tell if the fee could end earlier.

Reagin said that he understands why some students may be frustrated and confused about the fees.

“We are really sympathetic to the plight of what the students are having to do,” Reagin said. “One of the biggest frustrations I have with the timing of this whole thing is that [students] had already been registering for several weeks, and several students had already paid their bills based on a lower amount.”

Reagin added that students were required by the Board of Regents to pay fees on the first day of class.

He said that it takes longer for paperwork to be processed to see who has paid on time.

Reagin also said they are as flexible as possible, but the state mandates that fees are paid by that date.

Thompson feels that students understand the fee increase, noting that she has not received any feedback about the increase.

Reagin, Rzik and Murphey also said that there was not a large student response.

Thompson said, “I also think that most students understand in light of everything that’s happening, not only in the state, but the nation, that there’s not a lot of choice if we’re going to continue to keep up with the growth of this institution and being able to provide services, faculty, staff and everything that goes with it.”
Our View

‘Concentrate’ on big picture

Over the past few weeks, officials in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the writing and linguistics department have approved major changes to the writing and linguistics degree program.

The most noticeable changes will be the lack of concentrations, among these is the popular creative writing concentration.

Some alumni, students and professors of the program are angry about the move, saying that the changes will destroy the identity of the degree.

According to Randall McClure, director of the the writing and linguistics department, a majority of students choose the creative writing concentration. Approximately seventy-five percent of majors in the department pursue the creative writing concentration.

In reality, the only place that the four concentrations reflect any bulk is in the Georgia Southern course catalog.

The words “creative writing” do not appear on a writing and linguistics degree.

Restructuring the degree program will allow students to have more freedom to choose classes that they want to take. The concentrations did not allow students to diversify their degree. The new changes allow for diversity in exposure and experience.

Students, professors and alumni should not see this move as a loss of identity, but instead as a chance to move the program forward and allow it to grow.

Of course, nothing has been decided yet. The Undergraduate Committee must approve the changes at their next meeting on Jan. 19. Despite concerns we feel the benefits outweigh the consequences.

And the clouds begin to darken

It’s 2010 – do you know where your election stands? For the Democrats, the year isn’t off to the best of starts.

First of all, the Democratic Senate “supermajority,” the 60 votes that theoretically could prevent a Republican filibuster from killing legislation, is already in danger as the Massachusetts special election to replace Ted Kennedy’s Senate seat is basically down to the wire. The election, scheduled for next week, is to fill the seat left vacant after Kennedy’s death last year.

The fact that, in Massachusetts – easily one of the most liberal states in the country – a Republican is neck and neck with a Democrat may speak more about the Massachusetts people’s position on national policies than it does about the candidates. While the race could also go to the Democrats just as easily, it isn’t a promising sign, particularly given the state in question – if they can’t easily retake a seat that has been a Democratic bastion for decades. And if that’s the case, it means that the Democrats may need to seriously rethink their policies, or risk losing more seats in the general election this November, if they are driving away their own base.

Another bad sign is the lack of control the party is showing over its members when it comes to running for office. Harold Ford, Jr. is apparently going to compete against Kirsten Gillibrand for the nomination in the New York Democratic Primary, despite the fact that the party doesn’t wish for there to be a competition over the nomination. Again, the Democrats are on a downward slope almost everywhere – a contest could divide the Democratic base and create feelings of ill will in another key Democratic stronghold, and a potential problem for Democrats who need to hold every last seat or risk Republican derailment of Obama’s agenda.

I can’t see the future. Perhaps the Democrats WILL hold every seat that they need, and all of the Democratic desires will become reality. However, given the growing disagreement between the American people and the politicians in power, change is likely – change that Obama didn’t want to face. Either the Democrats need to change their tune, or they will need a miracle – at this point, anything else will spell disaster for the party’s hopes in November.
Take time to remember King

Monday sees the latest celebration of the birthday of one of the most important people in American history, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With the selection of an African-American male as the president of the United States in 2008, now more than ever Americans refer back to the struggles of Dr. King and reflect on how important he was in shaping the America we live in.

However, despite the fact that we have a black president, it does not mean that the message of King should be forgotten. In fact, it is imperative that Americans realize King is displayed by the media as a perfect, unblemished champion of freedom and equality before the law.

While he did believe in freedom, and fought (and died) for justice, he was also a human being. King had his faults, such as plagiarism in college and adultery during marriage. These aren't mentioned to denigrate King, but must be a part of the public record because it shows that all people can make a difference while not being "perfect".

The guest speaker coming to campus, Michael Eric Dyson, makes this point clear in his book, "I May Not Get There With You", about the life of King. However, Dyson only examines these faults to help the reader understand that King was both a hero and very much human.

Beyond that, the King holiday must also avoid being seen as just a holiday for African Americans. While his achievements were first and foremost for the black community, he and other civil rights leaders saw the movement as a chance to uplift all Americans from the scourg of racism backed by the law. In fact, some of those martyred for the cause of civil rights included Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who were both Jewish, and Viola Liuzzo, who was a white female from Michigan. And it cannot be forgotten that the final coalition King assembled in 1968, the "Poor People's Campaign", included poor whites from Appalachia, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans as well as blacks, in an attempt to petition the government to address economic injustice.

None of this should seem like dead history. If anything, I hope that it encourages you to learn more about the struggle for civil rights in your own communities. If you're from Georgia, you probably come from a town that has some unique stories from that time period. Being at GSU also means that you're at the site of civil rights history. GSU accepted its first black student in 1965, well after the struggles to integrate schools such as the University of Georgia were already wrapped up. GSU was also the first school in the state to take on a black scholarship athlete. The stories of John Bradley and Roger Moore are unique to Georgia Southern, and cannot be forgotten.

I'd encourage all students at Georgia Southern to find a way to attend Dyson's speech on Tuesday, because I can guarantee that hearing a fresh perspective on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. is rewarding for all Americans.

Keep your Farmville fodder to yourself

All right ... I realize that our college home is the small town of Statesboro and that outside of a large number of students from metro Atlanta, there is a good portion of students from small towns. But since when does that make it right for an even larger population of students to be farmers?

Now before I get sent angry letters about how farming is a respectable way to make a living (and it most certainly is), let me clarify. I am not talking about traditional farming; I am speaking of farming of the digital variety.

Nowadays it seems I can't log on to my Facebook without notification that a friend lost a chicken or found a cow on his or her farm.

What?

Yes, I'm talking about Farmville and the other spinoffs that this annoying game has produced in the past year.

For those of you who live under a rock, Farmville is a real-time farm simulation developed by Zynga, where Facebook users can plant, grow and cultivate crops in their own digital farmland.

Annoyed yet?

It gets better!

The crops must be maintained or else they will die. You must keep track of your farm on a daily basis, as well as warn off potential animals that may endanger your crops.

Yesterday I logged on to my Facebook only to find that one of my friends found a penguin on their farm.

A penguin? Ok, I get that this is a game, but seriously, a penguin?

At least in the good old days of "The Oregon Trail" things made sense.

I don't recall any Arctic creatures in that game (but would find it quite funny if a Farmville character could come down with a bad case of dysentery).

As annoying as I personally find this game to be, what I find even more bothersome is the fact that this information is shared on my Facebook minifeed.

Friends' Facebook statuses are suddenly lost under in-depth details about the trials and tribulations that Farmville users are having with their nonexistent farms.

And to address the almost everyday invites to join this game, let me state this clearly and concisely: I do not want to be a part of this!

I have no interest in plowing your garden or cultivating your crops (hey, that almost sounded dirty, fella).

With a full load of classes and a full time job, Facebook is distracting enough, so please everyone, if you choose to play this stupid game, do everyone else a favor and keep it to yourselves.

Weekly Poll

Are you excited to be back at school for the spring semester?

• I’m just ready to graduate! 44%
• Yes, I’m ready to hang with my friends. 24%
• I’m eager to learn. 16%
• This semester isn’t going to be so bad. 12%
• No, I’d rather be at home doing something constructive. 4%

For next week’s poll question, visit GADaily.com.
Degree program’s future uncertain

Writing and linguistics concentrations may be eliminated in fall 2010

Kelsey DECKER
news editor

Pending the results of a meeting of the Undergraduate Committee Jan. 19, the writing and linguistics degree program may undergo changes that will be put into effect starting fall 2010.

“What is planned is an elimination of the four-concentration model and going to a general degree where students self-select [courses] instead of having those courses selected for them, so it actually gives more choice to students,” said Randall McClure, the writing and linguistics department chair. “The degree is not going anywhere.”

The four concentrations – creative writing, linguistics, professional and technical writing, and writing studies – would be condensed into one program, a B.A. in writing and linguistics.

While the degree itself may not be going anyway, what would be lost is the identity each of the concentrations has created.

McClure acknowledged this loss and said, “By having four separate pages in the undergraduate catalog, it allows each area to have its own identity. That identity would not be as clear in the catalog, but that does not mean in any way, shape or form that that identity is going to be lost on campus.”

That identity, however, is important.

“I’m disappointed that the concentrations are going to be eliminated, particularly the creative writing concentration, which is a popular program with a strong identity,” said Eric Nelson, a writing and linguistics professor. “Of course, students will still be able to take creative writing classes, but the coherence and distinct identity of the creative writing program will be lost.”

McClure had a different opinion. “The identity on the whole will not change. I only think that creative writing will grow with this change – and that’s not to diminish the value of identity on paper – but it’s just to say that these changes were necessary, in my opinion, to allow creative writing as an area of study for students to grow.”

Creative writing has consistently been the most popular concentration of the four options. According to McClure, out of the 100 or so writing and linguistics majors each year, close to three-fourths pursue creative writing.

“I had hoped that creative writing would remain as a distinct concentration because of its popularity and identity, but that’s not how things worked out,” Nelson said.

But it’s the popularity of creative writing that led to the need for a change.

“Some of the concentrations did not have adequate enrollment to be sustainable, and because they suffered from low enrollment, it made it difficult to offer the courses necessary for students to complete those degrees,” McClure said.

Moving to a general writing and linguistics degree would allow the department to provide more sections of courses, especially in creative writing, that are already in demand.

In addition to eliminating the concentrations, there are a couple other changes that would come with redesigning the program. A capstone experience would be required for students, and that could include a number of things such as an internship, a creative writing portfolio or service project.

“I think that’s actually a very good change,” McClure said. “It gets students thinking about the world after their degree.”

Another change would be the required courses. Writing and linguistics students would still be required to take a creative writing, linguistics, professional and technical writing and writing studies class, but beyond that and a few other requirements, students would be able to take the courses that interest them, regardless of the concentration.

Also, there has been a proposal to add one course to the program, titled Careers in Writing and Linguistics.

“I believe a lot of students aren’t aware of the department, and so by having a 2000-level course that students can take early in their educational career that would introduce them to different careers in writing and linguistics would help us inform students about the department and the kinds of courses and programs and opportunities that are available to them,” McClure said.

But if these changes do not sound appealing, Nelson said, “Students who want to have the benefit of being in a specific concentration, whether it’s creative writing or one of the others, now’s the time to declare a major in writing and linguistics.”

The program’s redesign has been approved at the department and college level, but the university will not accept or deny the changes until the committee meeting next week.

If the changes are accepted, McClure will hold an information session later in the semester for students currently majoring or interested in writing and linguistics.

Hardy to carry Olympic torch Monday

Submitted to The George-Anne

Georgia Southern University student Crystal Hardy, a native of Dublin, Ga., will spend her Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday representing the United States as she carries the Olympic Torch in Calgary, Canada. The torch is expected to be handed off to Hardy around 6:52 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 18. You can watch live video streaming of the torch relay by logging onto www.ctvolympics.ca/. (Note: After logging on, there may be a brief message saying the page doesn’t exist. After a moment, a comprehensive Olympic Web page should appear. Look for the “Follow the Torch” link to the right-hand side of the screen.)

Dyson to speak at MLK celebration

Derek JOYCE
staff writer

On Tuesday, public speaker, intellectual and culture critic Michael Eric Dyson will be giving a speech at the Performing Arts Center as part of GSU’s annual Martin Luther King Day celebration.

In the past, the MLK celebration has featured speakers such as Samuel Kyles and Cornel West.

“I think he is a dynamic influence on the American community,” said Consuela Ward, the director of the Multicultural Student Center. “If you break up the data, he is also an impact on different communities within American communities, especially on people of color.”

Those who have heard about Dyson might recognize from his appearances in many forms of media.

 “[Dyson] has been catapulted into pop culture. By doing that, he is able to reach more people with his message,” said Ward.

Dyson has written 16 books including “Reflecting Black: African-American Cultural Criticism, Is Bill Cosby Right?: Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Minds?,” and “April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King’s Death and How it Changed America.”

Dyson also appeared on The Game and on Real Time with Bill Maher.

Professionally, Dyson is a Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University.

He teaches courses in Theology, English, and African American studies.

Dyson was a frequent guest on major talk shows including National Public Radio.

He is also has his own radio program, The Michael Eric Dyson Show.

Dyson has been awarded the National Magazine Award from the National Association of Black Journalists in 1992, the BET/General Motors Black History Makers Award in 2005 and is named by Ebony Magazine as one of the one hundred most influential black Americans.

“I think he challenges his audiences to think differently and to look at things that are perhaps right in front of us that we don’t recognize or acknowledge,” said Ward.

The event starts at 7 p.m. and is free of charge.

Ward said, “I believe that the attendees will leave feeling challenge, either motivated or emotional... because their beliefs are challenged.”
Returning students’ housing left to chance

February lottery to decide which upperclassmen live on campus

Victoria EVANS
Our House editor-in-chief

Returning students must sign up for a housing lottery to have a chance to live on campus for the 2010-2011 school year.

Georgia Southern has a requirement for all new freshmen to live on campus their first year.

There has been an increasing number of incoming freshmen for the past three years, so in order to have room for the freshmen, fewer upperclassmen can live on campus.

The high demand for housing will exceed the amount of housing available, so University Housing had to find a way to decide which returning students will be given the opportunity to live on campus.

The student representatives of the Residential Hall Association came up with the housing lottery.

Students have been informed about this process through posters, e-mails and reminders.

“It’s the fairest chance for each student wanting to live on campus,” said Jon Coleman, University Housing assistant director administrative.

University Housing is using a computer feature that will take each returning student’s application and assign it a lottery number.

“Doing this randomly takes away personal judgment,” said Coleman.

However, sophomore Garrison Pitts disagreed.

“Living accommodations should be left to the individual. Some people don’t have the money to live off campus,” said Pitts.

According to University Housing, approximately 50 percent of the upperclassmen space of the 2009-2010 year will be available to those returning students next year.

Returning students that are denied the chance to live on campus will have to look for living options off campus.

Coleman wants students to know that “signing a housing contract is like an apartment lease.”

“I plan to live in Watson Hall, but if plans change, I may just live in a house with some guys,” said Pitts.

Students can make special requests if they feel they have a special situation or need to live on-campus. A committee of student leaders will review requests. Make these special requests at www.gsuhousing.com/lottery by Jan. 22.

Students can apply for on-campus housing for the 2010-2011 year at www.gsuhousing.com/rssu until Jan. 29.

The housing lottery will take place on Feb. 10.
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- **Saturday:** 12 oz. Margarita $2 (Lime Only)
- **Monday:** 12 oz. Margarita (Lime Only)
- **Tuesday:** Imported Beer $2
- **Wednesday:** Domestic Beer $2

**Happy Hour from 5-7 p.m.**

**Food Specials -- Buckhead Location**
- **Thursday:** 34 oz. Beer $2 (Domestic Only)
- **Friday:** 12 oz. Mojito $2 (Frozen Only)
- **Saturday:** 12 oz. Margarita $2 (Lime Only)
- **Monday:** 12 oz. Margarita (Lime Only)
- **Tuesday:** Imported Beer $2
- **Wednesday:** Domestic Beer $2

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• Tuesday: Filet Mignon Beef Tips for $10.95
• Wednesday: 1 1/2 Lb. Alaskan Snow Crab for $14.95

“*If you are under the age of 21, it is against the law to buy alcoholic beverages.***

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**POLICE BEAT**

**Thurs., Dec. 10, 2009**
- Officers issued two traffic warnings, assisted four motorists, responded to one alarm and investigated two accidents.
- Someone slashed the tires on three vehicles in C-Lot.
- A wallet was taken from the Recreation Activity Center.
- A bicycle was taken from the Russell Union.
- A bicycle was taken from Centennial Place.
- Tiffany Lynn Curry, 18, Eagle Village, was charged with false report of a crime.
- David Tyler Holt, 22, Southern Cove, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane.
- Vincent A. Nicholson, 23, Martin Farms Road, Powder Springs, was charged with DUI, failure to maintain lane and open container violation.
- A Georgia Southern University student reported that a sexual assault occurred with an acquaintance on 11-15-09 at Sanford Hall.

**Fri., Dec. 11, 2009**
- Officers assisted two motorists, responded to two alarms and investigated one accident.
- Cornelius Lamont Wright, 19, Johnson Street, Statesboro, was charged with criminal trespass and possession of tools for the commission of a crime.
- Trevor Lothian Marks, 18, Red Roan Road, Peachtree City, was charged with criminal trespass.

**Sat., Dec. 12, 2009**
- Officers issued one traffic warning and assisted one injured person.

**Sun., Dec. 13, 2009**
- Officers issued one traffic citation, one traffic warning and assisted three motorists.

**Mon., Dec. 14, 2009**
- Officers assisted one motorist and responded to one alarm.

**Tues., Dec. 15, 2009**
- Officers responded to two motor vehicle accidents.
- A burglary was reported at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house on Olympic Boulevard.
- Vincent Pierre Purdue, 24, Stone Road, Atlanta, was arrested as a wanted person.

**Wed., Dec. 16, 2009**
- Officers issued two traffic citations, three traffic warnings, assisted one motorist, responded to one alarm and investigated one accident.

**Thurs., Dec. 17, 2009**
- Officers assisted two motorists.
- Officers located an unsecured bicycle at Eagle Village and took it for safe keeping.

**Fri., Dec. 18, 2009**
- Officers responded to a burglary alarm at the Kappa Delta house.
- A report was made for lost/mislaid property.

**Sat., Dec. 19, 2009**
- Officers responded to a fire alarm at Centennial Place.
- Officers made contact with a suspicious person at University Villas.
- An apartment was burglarized at Southern Courtyard.

**Continued in Jan. 21 edition.**

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**Women’s Forum supports breast cancer awareness**

**Kelsey SORRELL staff writer**

From 12-1 p.m., there will be a banquet luncheon where keynote speakers Doctors Paula DeNitto and Ray Rudolph from the Center for Breast Care at the Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah will discuss breast cancer.

At 1 p.m., there will be exhibits from 12 vendors that either cater to women or are owned and operated by women, such as gyms, jewelry stores, spray tans and salons. The Women’s Forum also accepts sponsors each year in order to properly fund the event. There are three levels of sponsors: a Gold Sponsor at $2,000, a Silver Sponsor at $1,000 and a Bronze Sponsor at $500.

The main sponsors for this year’s forum are Magnolia Coastlands and Intramurals, the Student Disability Resource Center and the department of hospitality, tourism, family & consumer sciences.

This event has been in the planning stages for over a year, according to Education Specialist Dr. Ray Rudolph from the Shepherd Center in Atlanta to conduct the demonstration, as well as organizing and structuring the intramurals league rules.

The process involved acquiring a grant for the sport chairs and recruiting a team of athletes from the University of South Dakota. The Shepherd Center in Atlanta to conduct the demonstration, as well as organizing and structuring the intramurals league rules.

The league is open to both mobility-challenged and able-bodied individuals, and Coskrey encouraged students to “stop by and, even if they don’t participate, to take a look.”

CRI’s Graduate Assistant for fitness Kyle Anderson said that the initiative for this new intramural league comes from a desire for the university to provide physical fitness opportunities for the entirety of its diverse student population.

Anderson encouraged students to “move past the current idea that this isn’t for everybody.”

The wheelchair basketball intramural league will schedule games on Thursdays from 8-10 p.m. beginning Feb. 4.

Teams are limited to four players, and games will take place on a half-court size playing field.

Registration forms are due to CRI by Tuesday, Jan. 26 by 8 p.m.
Last semester you may have noticed cookies fleeing the Cookie Monster across campus, feathers flying under the gazebo during an impromptu pillow fight between students or even a king directing the wild things across campus.

Lydia Luke, a freshman writing and linguistics major, is the culprit, or rather, the mastermind behind the happenings of Georgia Southern’s first flash mob group and the object of curiosity for many students.

However, while the flash mob garners attention and the looks of confused students across campus, Luke’s goal wasn’t to capture the attention of the student body.

“I really love meeting people,” said Luke. “I love meeting people, and I like finding new things about them and finding diversity.”

According to Luke, the idea for the flash mob occurred out of her desire to meet more people while causing a bit of a stir, and what began as an innocent venture to branch out developed into something much bigger.

“We’re almost at 500 people—I think we’re at 497,” stated Luke.

For Luke, heading up the flash mob is easy compared to getting the group started.

“The hardest part is starting and just getting up and making it happen, because everybody has great ideas, but until you put it into action it’s not going to be worth anything,” said Luke.

For those who haven’t seen the cookies, the pillows or the freeze frames on campus, flash mob is, according to Luke, “a bunch of people who get together and do something that seems to be really spontaneous to everyone else around them.”

For Luke, it’s not simply what the flash mob does, but the reactions it garners. According to Luke, many people will come up to her or others in the group after one of their “spontaneous” acts and tell her just how much it made their day.

“I have a lot of clips and extras of people’s faces and you can hear them saying ‘Oh my gosh. What just happened?’”

Often in public people will randomly come up to me and be like, ‘you’re the flash mob girl … what you do is awesome!’” recounted Luke.

As a freshman, Luke has already begun to delve into campus, getting involved with Chi Alpha as a worship leader and Eagle Entertainment.

Despite her early beginnings as a leader on campus, Luke wants to take things one step at a time.

“Right now this is a lot of stuff to get involved in, just with classes and stuff, but it’s really awesome. I definitely would like to do more and get involved in more, but I like the workload I have now,” said Luke.

“I’m trying to balance everything and stay focused.”

With the support of her family and her aspirations to become a better leader, Luke seems to have things going in the right direction.

“My family and friends, they were all like, ‘we expected this sort of thing out of you,’” said Luke. “They’re supporting me in all that I’m doing, even if it seems really insane.”

For Luke, the best part about her involvement in flash mob and on campus is the face time she gets with people.

“I like to know people,” said Luke. “I like to get to know their names. When you know someone’s name, you get a lot more personal.”

Her ultimate goal, she said, was to make people feel comfortable being themselves and giving everyone an opportunity to contribute.

“[It’s about] just creating something where people feel like a family; where they have a role and they play an important part,” said Luke.

“Making people feel like they have a part in something is one of the greatest things you can do.”
With every Jan. 1 comes a whole slew of New Year’s resolutions. Just about everyone has one. Most of them are somewhat vague, like losing weight, drinking less or doing better in school. Others are more specific, like quitting smoking, reading a book a month or getting a job.

Understandably, a lot of people don’t end up following through with their New Year’s resolution. Working out requires a lot of motivation, reading can get time consuming and smoking (for those that do) is a great stress reliever.

So, for those looking for a New Year’s resolution that is easy to both implement and maintain, consider reducing your carbon footprint.

What is your carbon footprint? Put simply, it is the measure of the greenhouse gases produced in your day-to-day life by burning fossil fuels for electricity.

While the actual effect of carbon emissions is debated (i.e. the global warming debate), it’s generally understood that we pump way too much of it into the atmosphere.

Your motivation doesn’t have to be as noble as “saving the planet.” Reducing your carbon footprint will save you money on your electricity bill because the basic tenet of reducing your carbon footprint is to use less electricity.

For instance, microwaves are between 3.5 and 4.8 times more efficient than traditional electric ovens. That means that if it costs 10 cents to cook something in a microwave, it costs roughly 48 cents to cook in a conventional oven.

The first step to reducing one’s carbon footprint is to calculate their current footprint. The average American generates about 20 tons of CO2 each year. The global average is 4 tons.

One really great resource for calculating your carbon footprint is, expectedly, www.carbonfootprint.com. Click on “calculate” and the website provides both a domestic and a business calculation.

After you calculate your footprint, the site gives you the opportunity to offset your carbon emissions by donating to various organizations that focus on offsetting emissions by planting trees or invest in alternative energy.

Once you’ve got a good feel for your current footprint, it’s time to start reducing your emissions. This mostly consists of reducing energy consumption, be it at home or on the road. The following is a short list of tips for reducing energy use:

1. Dust your lightbulbs and replace them -- when they burn out -- with compact fluorescents.
2. Install weather stripping on your doors and windows. This will help with insulation, resulting in less energy devoted to heating or cooling your living space.
3. Recycle! It’s the golden standard of living green for a reason. Recycling one aluminum can saves the amount of energy it takes to run a TV for three hours.
4. Live on campus if you can. This will help cut down on your travel-related footprint, such as gasoline consumption and car maintenance. 50 percent of the 11 million students in college live off-campus.

If half of those students used alternate means of getting to class (biking, walking, carpooling, public transportation) roughly two million cars would be taken off the already busy roads.

More tips are available at www.carbonfootprint.com and www.green.wikia.com (search for “how to reduce your carbon footprint.”)

All facts and figures are from “The Green Book” by Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen. I suggest this book to anyone and everyone that is looking to take even the smallest step towards a more sustainable lifestyle.
Classifieds

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Sudoku

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Ladies take win in OT

Latrice WiLLIAMS
staff writer

The Georgia Southern Women’s Basketball team (8-8, 4-4) went into a thrilling overtime with the Paladins of Furman and came out victorious.

Senior J’Lisia Ogburn led the team with 16 points. GSU shot 9-of-14 from the free throw line, while Furman went 18-of-29. For the game, the Eagles shot 42 percent from the floor (21-50) to the Paladins’ 30 percent (14-47).

The contest between tonight’s meeting marks the 44th time the teams have battled.

New faces were added to the starting line-up as Candace Ivy and Samantha Williams were inducted into the starting five.

GSU and Furman went on a chase for the ball in the opening minutes, but Williams was the first to end the drought.

The Paladin defense proved to be a tough match for the Eagles. GSU had two shot clock violations in the first half.

Turnovers plagued the Eagles as they committed 11 fouls in the first half alone. Furman benefitted by scoring double figures off of GSU’s turnovers.

Furman saw more time at the free throw line then they did in the paint. The Paladins pulled a nine-point lead with a minute remaining in the half. At the end of the half, Furman led 29-22.

Shortly after, the Eagles went on a 6-0 run provided by Ogburn, who also set the tone for the Eagles in overtime.

Carolyn Whitney’s jumper put the Eagles on top and the lead would not be relinquished.

Jamie Navarro and Janay Wilson combined for a 3-of-4 effort from the free throw line, clinching the overtime win for Georgia Southern, 54-50.

“IT’s a huge win for the team. It allows us to go back into practice with a little more confidence and start focusing on building back to where we want to be,” stated head coach Rusty Cram. “We got in foul trouble in the first half which forced us to play our younger kids and we simply couldn’t find any rhythm offensively or defensively.

“But we came back in the second half, got a little tougher and held our composure down the stretch. Now we have to keep people from getting in foul trouble.”

Whitney led the team with a game high seven rebounds.

GSU will travel to Spartanburg, S.C., for a Southern Conference showdown with the Wofford Terriers on Saturday, January 16 at 3 p.m.

They will then return to Hanner Fieldhouse to take on the Davidson Wildcats, Monday at 7 p.m.
### Results / Calendar

| MONDAY (1/11) | WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | Furman - 50 @ GSU - 54 | Chattanooga - 64 @ Davidson - 62 | Western Carolina -61 @. UNC-G -75 | Samford - 71 @ App. State - 65 | Wofford - 52 @. College of Charleston - 65 |
| WEDNESDAY (1/13) | WRESTLING | The Citadel @ UNC-Pembroke - 3:00 | The Citadel @ Campbell - 5:00 |
| | MEN’S BASKETBALL | Davidson(7-9) @ Furman (8-7) - 7:00 | Elon (3-12) @ App. State (8-7) - 5:00 |
| | WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | Elon (6-9) @ UNC-G (6-9) - 7:00 |
| THURSDAY (1/14) | WRESTLING | UNC @ App. State - 6:00 | Virginia @ App. State - 7:30 |
| | MEN’S BASKETBALL | UNC (13-4) @ WCU (12-3) - 7:00 | The Citadel (8-8)@ UT-C (10-6) - 7:00 | GSU (4-13) @. Wofford (10-7) - 7:00 |
| | WRESTLING | C.ofC. (9-6) @ Samford (7-8) - 8:00 |
| FRIDAY (1/15) | INDOOR TRACK & FIELD | Western Carolina @ TBA | TBA @ App. State |
| SATURDAY (1/16) | WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | WCU (3-13) @ Chattanooga (12-6) - 12:00 | Furman (5-12) @ Elon (6-9) - 2:00 |
| | MEN’S BASKETBALL | Davidson (8-8) @ C.ofC. (11-5) - 2:00 | App. State (7-9) @ UNC-G (6-9) - 3:00 | GSU (8-8) @ Wofford (2-12) - 7:00 |
| | MEN’S BASKETBALL | C.ofC. (9-6) @ Chattanooga (10-6) - 2:30 | The Citadel (8-8) @ Samford (7-8) - 3:00 | UNC-G (3-13) @ App. State (8-7) - 3:00 |
| | WRESTLING | GSU (4-13) @ Furman (8-7) - 4:00 | Davidson (7-9) @ Wofford. (10-7) - 7:00 | Elon (3-12) @ WCU (12-3) - 7:00 |

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Inside the Huddle: Coach Jeff Monken
GSU’s new football coach discusses recruiting, philosophy and the future

It is always an exciting time whenever a new coach joins a program. As fans, students, staff and members of the community, there are many unanswered questions about the new face of the Georgia Southern football program. What is the new scheme? What is the coach’s philosophy? Will the team improve? What is most important to the new coaching staff?

Jeff Monken takes over the GSU football program after Chris Hatcher was let go finishing 18-15 in his three year tenure.

“Starting a new football program is always a little bit overwhelming,” said Monken. “I don’t feel any pressure taking the coaching job here. The only pressure I feel is the pressure to get our team best prepared for each game that we have ahead of us. I’m not worried about any other game at this point.”

Many fans and students have questions regarding the style of play GSU will implement under Monken. Rumors of a triple option offense seem to be accurate, but what type of effect will that have on the future?

“All the schemes you’ve heard of are possible, but it’s always tough when you change an offensive philosophy,” said Monken. “Going through the transition is one of the more frustrating things. GSU used to have the triple option offense before going to a more traditional offense. On that side of the ball, it’s going to take some time to where we are trying to get to.”

Offensively, Monken said the Eagles will run a 3-3-5 defense.

“Defensively, it’s a new system,” said Monken. “You’ve got new coaches and a new scheme, so it’s going to take some time which I understand. We will run what we need to run based on the personnel we have at hand. It goes the same for our offense too. We might not be as fire-powered as we were at Georgia Tech to start off, but hopefully we can get that that. It could be next year or two years from now, but we will do what we have to.”

With a new coach comes a new philosophy. Many GSU fans wonder how recruiting will be affected with a new offensive philosophy.

“We have an offensive and defensive philosophy in place,” said Monken. “We will try to recruit towards those systems and do the best we can in transition.”

Thom CUNNINGHAM
sports editor

There is little to worry fans due to the track record coach Monken has in his coaching career. In 1997, he joined Paul Johnson to coach the GSU Eagles. During that time, Monken coached the slot backs and accumulated 60-plus wins in five seasons.

Monken would then follow Johnson to Navy, where he coached the slot backs from 2002-2007 before following him to Georgia Tech.

“I joined coach Johnson when he took the job here,” said Monken. “Ever since then I have been a part of his successful system. I took this job in hopes I can be successful without him. I have a lot of respect for him and I value the success he has been able to maintain.”

The success that they have had in the past is something Monken would like to bring to GSU.

“I was down here for five years with coach Johnson,” said Monken. “We had a lot of success and we played in a couple of championship games. So I think that it can happen again here and there is a realization that it can happen at a school like this.”