

2015

# President's Annual Report

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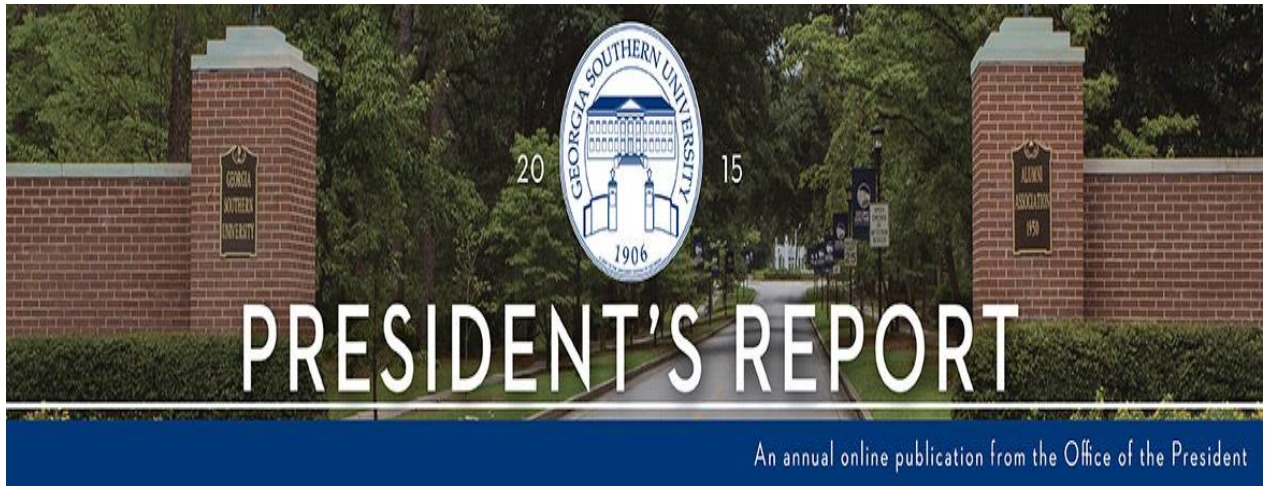
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## A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

I've been privileged to see the phenomenal growth at Georgia Southern University for more than 15 years, and each year I am amazed by our ability to eclipse the growth and achievements of the year before. The 2014-2015 fiscal year was no exception, and as I begin my time as your president, I want to celebrate our year of accomplishments, and to recognize Dr. Brooks Keel for his contribution to this University and the trajectory of success he leaves behind.

I believe we will continue this trajectory with dedication and commitment to student success. It is student success that drives us forward, and our efforts are being recognized on a national scale. In its list of "Best Online Graduate Education Programs," *U.S. News and World Report* ranked our College of Education 75th out of 252 schools offering online graduate education. The magazine also ranked our College of Business Administration in the top 20 schools in the nation for its Online MBA program and in the top 25 for its graduate programs. In addition, *FashionSchools.org* rated our Fashion Merchandising program 49th in the nation, and our list of rankings continues to grow. You can view all of them on the Georgia Southern [Points of Pride](#) website.



This recognition, along with the efforts of our distinguished faculty continues to further the University's research opportunities through grants. Georgia Southern received more than \$11.8 million in grants this fiscal year, including \$950,000 from the National Science Foundation and a \$2.2 million grant to establish a Center for Nursing Scholarship and Research in the School of Nursing.

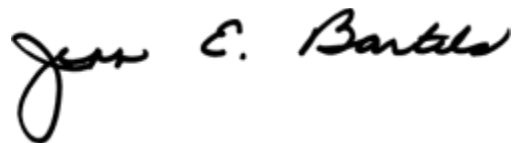
The campus is expanding as well. The University began construction on a new state-of-the-art Health Services facility, providing better health care services to our students. We also received funding from Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and our Georgia legislators for a new \$9.5 million Military Science Building for our growing Army-affiliated ROTC program. We completed an \$8.65 million renovation to Sanford Hall, a former dormitory that is now a state-of-the-art Communication Arts building. In addition, The Georgia Southern Golf Course was recently named one of the "Best New Courses" by *Golf Digest* and a new Shooting Sports Education Center will open in the fall of this year.

Our university has invested in student success and our students have responded with excellence and achievements. Azell Francis, an international graduate student in engineering and SGA president, won the 2015 Regent Willis J. Potts Student Advisory Council Leadership Award for her outstanding leadership among SGA presidents from across the university system. Matthew Horne, an international studies major and member of the ROTC, was ranked fourth among the top 10 cadets in the country on the national Order of Merit List. Finally, students from the Multimedia Development Center won a Student Emmy® Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for its production of the Wounded Eagle Project video. There are many more stories of outstanding student achievements just like these all across campus.

This growth cannot happen apart from engaged donors and alumni. This year, University supporters gave a record total of \$2.2 million on A Day for Southern, the Recreation Activity Center was named for former University President and First Lady Bruce and Kathryn Grube for their generous gift and the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art received a \$500,000 gift from the estate of Gov. Carl Sanders. Our alumni base continues to grow with 64,690 of our alumni living in and around the state of Georgia and the remaining 14,446 living throughout the U.S. and the world.

This 2014-15 President's annual report offers a just a snapshot of some of the accomplishments and milestones made by our faculty, staff, students and community. I am proud of all that we have achieved and I look forward to continued success in the years to come.

We will not stand still during my time as interim president. This coming year will be full of amazing opportunities to help students turn their possibilities into reality. You would expect nothing less from the Greatest University in America.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean E. Bartels". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., RN

Interim President

## **ACADEMICS**

Student success remains the heart of what we do at Georgia Southern. It is the quest for student success that drives us to provide our students with cutting-edge classrooms, laboratories and technology – all of which provide a foundation for them to transform possibilities into reality. They are supported and taught by a world-class faculty, many of whom lead in groundbreaking innovation and research, shining a national light on the University through their work while allowing their students to participate in their endeavors.

This year was an exceptional year for academics at Georgia Southern. Our existing programs are accredited with the most prestigious agencies in the country, we continue to expand our programs and course offerings, and we are building the facilities necessary to house them. The future is bright for students at Georgia Southern.



# Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology

**College of Engineering and Information Technology granted first Undergraduate Manufacturing Engineering program in the state of Georgia**

**Georgia Southern University Granted First Undergraduate Manufacturing Engineering Program in the State of Georgia**

**AUGUST 20, 2014**



*The Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology will begin offering the Manufacturing Engineering undergraduate degree program in Fall 2015.*

Georgia Southern University made history on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014, when the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia granted the University with the first undergraduate Manufacturing Engineering degree program in the state of Georgia and Southeast United States.

“Manufacturing is returning to the U.S., and the state of Georgia can now prepare its citizens for careers in this fast-growing field,” said Mohammad Davoud, dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology. “Employees trained in manufacturing will enable Georgia to attract corporations and industries to invest in the state and region. These corporations need manufacturing engineers who are trained to think innovatively and use

state-of-the-art techniques and technologies. The new Manufacturing Engineering program at Georgia Southern will do just that.”

Manufacturing engineers work closely with mechanical, electrical and other engineers as a member of the design team to ensure manufacturability of the product while considering recycling and other aspects of the product life cycle. They also concentrate on the facilities, equipment, processes and methods necessary for the efficient and safe production of products in a globally competitive environment. Manufacturing engineers direct and coordinate the processes for transforming materials into products and guide the design, and conduct analysis and modification of product design to ensure the viability of the design for manufacturability.

Currently, there are only 20 accredited manufacturing engineering programs in the U.S and none in the Southeast United States that offer a manufacturing engineering undergraduate program.

The Manufacturing Engineering program will be housed in the College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT). CEIT prides itself on providing an application-based, practical education using hands-on laboratories and exercises to bridge classroom learning and the “real world.” In addition to the Manufacturing Engineering program, CEIT is working toward establishing a world-class Southeastern Materials & Manufacturing Applied Research Center. The Research Center will enable Georgia Southern’s engineering programs to collaborate with regional corporations to conduct applied research projects, pilot manufacturing studies, product development and technical support.

The Manufacturing Engineering program will begin accepting students in fall 2015.

The Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology offers five ABET-accredited programs serving more than 3,000 undergraduate students in its Department’s of Civil Engineering and Construction Management, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Information Technology and Mechanical Engineering; and over 100 students in its master’s program. CEIT prides itself on fostering student-centric professional learning experiences by utilizing advanced technologies applied with state-of-the-art equipment, inspiring innovation and invention, and encouraging sustainability. CEIT degree programs are recognized for their intensive hands-on laboratory experiences being an integral extension of the coursework.

Visit [ceit.georgiasouthern.edu](http://ceit.georgiasouthern.edu).

## **Ten Georgia Southern students were awarded scholarships from the Georgia Engineering Foundation**

**Georgia Engineering Foundation awards 10 scholarships to CEIT students**

**OCTOBER 27, 2014**

The Georgia Engineering Foundation has awarded ten scholarships to engineering students at Georgia Southern. The GEF awarded a total of \$84,000 to 44 students across Georgia. This was the first year Georgia Southern students were eligible, as applicants must be enrolled in an accredited program. Georgia Southern's engineering programs were accredited by ABET in August 2014.

The scholarship winners will receive a scholarship certificate and their scholarship check at the annual Scholarship Awards Banquet on Tuesday, November 18 in Dunwoody, GA

## **Ms. Azell Francis, MechE '13, MSAE student and SGA President, was awarded the 2015 Regent Willis J. Potts Student Advisory Council Leadership Award**

### **SGA President Azell Francis Receives Potts Leadership Award**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2015**

Second Consecutive Honoree From Georgia Southern

Azell Francis ('14), the Georgia Southern University Student Government Association (SGA) president, has been awarded the 2015 Regent Willis J. Potts Student Advisory Council Leadership Award.

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) is composed of SGA presidents from the 31 University System of Georgia (USG) colleges and universities across the state, representing more than 309,000 students. Each year, the SAC membership anonymously selects a member who has shown strong interest and leadership in the organization; who demonstrates openness, honesty and respect; and who shows enthusiasm in the engagement of all SAC activities and conferences.

USG Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Joyce Jones, Ph.D., said the selection of Francis was an easy choice for her fellow presidents.



“It has been a pleasure to work with an outstanding campus leader like Azell Francis,” said Jones. “She takes initiative, has volunteered to participate on USG System-wide committees and has made recommendations that will be implemented as ‘best practices.’ The Potts award is voted on by the student leaders and clearly Azell was the majority favorite. She has worked hard in her SGA leadership role and certainly deserves this leadership award.”

Francis, a Georgia Southern graduate and current Master of Science in Applied Engineering student, is the first international student to serve as Georgia Southern SGA president and the first female president since 2009. Since her election, she has created the “Eagles for Eagles” program, which is a student-led initiative to raise funds for students suffering extreme financial hardships. In addition to her roles at SGA and SAC, Francis currently serves on the system-wide Title IX Committee, which will make recommendations to the USG chancellor in May, and is also helping draft the 2015 End-of-Year Report for the USG chancellor and Board chair.

With all of her outstanding University involvement and prior accolades, Francis said she was still surprised to receive such a prestigious award.

“I was pleasantly surprised, honored, grateful and ecstatic to have been voted in by my peers for this award,” she said. “In a room filled with servant leaders, it is a very emotional experience to receive such recognition.”

For Francis, the leadership roles and recognition are really just part of a greater desire to serve people. And, like the leader for whom the award is named, Francis says she wants to be a student advocate in everything she does.

“In my role as SGA president, and on the Student Advisory Council, I sought first to listen to students, and then to serve as their voice,” said Francis. “The ultimate goal was, and is, to serve students... to enhance their collegiate experience and provide them with the best learning environment to discover and pursue their purpose. Receiving this leadership award, though an incredible honor, was never a part of my story as I envisioned it. My joy in serving as student body president comes from knowing that the work that we are doing is making a difference in the world, one Eagle at a time, and through SAC, one USG alum at a time.”

Francis is the fifth recipient of the Potts Leadership Award, and the second consecutive recipient from Georgia Southern. Garrett Green, former University SGA president, received the same honor last year.

“Garrett, as my predecessor set a great example for me, and in his wake I am able to soar,” said Francis. “As I aim for new heights, I look excitedly to the future, and am happy to play my small part in our tradition of excellence.”

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.

**Eagle Motorsports' Baja SAE team won big at the regional competitions in Auburn, Alabama. The team came in 1st for Maneuverability, 2nd in Endurance and 5th place overall out of 100 teams**

**Eagle Motorsports Amazes at Auburn**

**APRIL 14, 2015**



Eagle MotorSports' Baja SAE team won big at the regional competitions in Auburn, Alabama. **The Georgia Southern team came in 1st for Maneuverability, 2nd in Endurance, and 5th place overall out of 100 teams!** [The other two other events are Acceleration and Hill Climb.]

Each year, the team designs and builds its own Baja (or off-road) vehicle using a Briggs & Stratton lawn mower engine for power. Eagle MotorSports teams have done increasingly well each of the past few years, and the faculty and staff of the Allen E. Paulson College of

Engineering & Information Technology are very proud of their efforts. Congratulations to the entire team, its captain, Michael Santangelo, and many thanks to faculty mentor Spencer Harp.

# College of Business Administration

## The College of Business was ranked in the top 20 for its Online MBA

### Georgia Southern University Online MBA Ranked 17th by BestColleges.com

APRIL 14, 2015

The Online MBA offered by the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University has been ranked 17th by [BestColleges.com](http://BestColleges.com) as a Top Online MBA Program of 2015.

According to BestColleges.com, the Best Online Programs rankings are compiled using qualitative measures and data provided by IPEDS and the schools. BestColleges.com reviewed more than 350 not-for-profit online programs, taking into consideration factors such as accreditation, academic quality, and peer reviews.

“We are gratified by the recognition and excited to be listed among the best programs in the nation,” states Allen C. Amason, dean of the College of Business Administration. “Our faculty and staff have worked hard to deliver good value, and rankings like this are a testament to that commitment and effort.”

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has found that one in three U.S. college students now take at least one class online. Completing an online MBA allows working professionals to continue working and maintaining their personal lives without much interruption, while advancing their education and opening their careers to new opportunities. The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) annual corporate recruitment survey reports employer interest in hiring MBAs is increasing.

The Georgia Southern College of Business Administration has offered its Online MBA since 2001. The program is cohort-based, asynchronous and five semesters/21 months, with an established track record of preparing students for the complexities of today’s global business environment. The Georgia Southern Online MBA boasts high student satisfaction and graduation rates.

Georgia Southern University and all of its programs contained under the university’s umbrella are accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The College of Business has undergraduate and graduate accreditation through AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Only about 5 percent of all colleges of business are AACSB accredited.

For more information on the Georgia Southern MBA programs, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/MBA](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/MBA) or call [912.478.5767](tel:912.478.5767).

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# Georgia Southern University Business programs ranked in top 25 by U.S. News and World Report

Georgia Southern University Business Programs Ranked Top 25 by U.S. News & World Report

JANUARY 13, 2015



The Georgia Southern University College of Business Administration online programs have been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as among the best online programs for 2015. The MBA program ranked 18th, tying with Mississippi State University for the Best MBA Programs for Online Students, while the College's Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA) ranked 21st.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, the 2015 Best Online MBA Programs and Best

Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA) are the best online master's degree programs based upon admissions selectivity, reputation for excellence among peer institutions and academic and career support services offered to students. Fewer than 200 schools were included in this year's ranking, placing greater weight on reputation and admissions selectivity. Less than 120 schools ranked among the Best Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA).

In the past, *U.S. News & World Report* combined MBA programs and all other online business master's degree programs. This year, however, non-MBA business degrees, such as accounting and applied economics in Georgia Southern's case, were assessed separately. The rankings were split because prospective MBA students are likely to focus their research on schools that offer only MBAs, where many students researching discipline-specific degrees in other areas, such as accounting or economics are doing so to further their careers. *U.S. News* concluded that separating MBA programs from other master's-level business programs would better serve students, allowing for more accurate comparisons.

*U.S. News* ranked schools using the following five general categories: student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training and student services and technology.

"We are gratified by the recognition and believe it reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students," stated Allen C. Amason, dean of the Georgia Southern College of Business. "We believe it also reflects the quality of our programs, the value of our degrees and our commitment to providing a great education and a strong return to our stakeholders."

Georgia Southern University and all of the programs contained under the university's umbrella are accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The College of Business has undergraduate and graduate accreditation through AACSB International. Only about five percent of all colleges of business have AACSB accreditation.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

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## **The WebMacc program was ranked in the top 10 by TopAccountingDegrees.org**

### **Georgia Southern University WebMAcc Program Ranked Seventh Nationally**

**MAY 1, 2015**

The Georgia Southern University WebMAcc program has been ranked seventh by [TopAccountingDegrees.org](http://TopAccountingDegrees.org) in its Top 20 Master of Accounting Online Degree Programs 2015.

According to the site, the Top 20 Master of Accounting Online Degree Programs 2015 rankings were based on average tuition (weighted 10%), AACSB accreditation (weighted 30%), CPA exam pass rate (weighted 20%), employment rate (weighted 20%), and salary projections (weighted 20%). Information regarding each criterion came from College Navigator, AACSB International, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and *U.S. News and World Report*, respectively. Each school was then given a final score out of 100, and those with the top 20 scores were included in the ranking.

“The Georgia Southern College of Business Administration is unique in that it is accredited by the AACSB for both business and accounting. The no frills, 100 percent online accounting program is one of the best ways to start a career in finance today, with rigorous coursework and a team-based learning approach that ensures success. The support students receive from classmates and professors is just one factor in the high CPA exam pass rate they see after graduation. Coursework featuring accounting, auditing and information technology seminars, legal issues, and income tax provide a robust framework for negotiating the financial arena professionally,” the site reported. In-state tuition is \$6,468 per year and out-of-state tuition is \$25,846 per year.

For more information on the 30-credit hour, fully-online Georgia Southern WebMAcc program, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/BusinessGraduate](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/BusinessGraduate) or email [soa@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:soa@georgiasouthern.edu).

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The College launched its Eagles on Wall Street program, with 24 students spending a week in lower Manhattan, visiting Goldman Sachs, the Federal Reserve, Willis, the NYMEX, along with other important locations, as part of a finance class

### Eagles on Wall Street

The inaugural Eagles on Wall Street, a study abroad type of experience within the United States, began on May 11. From May 11–16, 2015, two College of Business faculty members, Allissa Lee, PhD, assistant professor of finance, and Joe Ruhland, PhD, associate professor of finance, braved the Big Apple with 24 business students. During the week, the group experienced eating at Lombardi's Pizza ("America's First Pizzeria"), viewing NYC from the Top of the Rock in midtown Manhattan, and visiting the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Goldman Sachs, TIAA-CREF, Bloomberg, and the New York Mercantile Exchange, among several other locations around the city. One of the student participants said, "It was a hands down incredible experience... I learned a lot from the firms that we visited; it was a unique opportunity to be able to get an inside look at the companies we visited."



Allissa Lee, PhD, and Joe Ruhland, PhD, took 24 students to New York City to visit several major businesses around the city.

Stay tuned for the Fall 2015 *Eagle Executive* magazine, out in September, for more on what the students did as part of this exciting new College of Business program.

# **New MyDevice Classroom in the College of Business**

## **New MyDevice Classroom in the College of Business**

**MARCH 1, 2015**

The College of Business Administration announced the very first “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) classroom on the Georgia Southern campus when the school year started in August. Over the summer, one of the College’s computer labs was converted into a wireless, interactive classroom. This technology allows students to utilize their own devices, whether laptops or tablets, as individuals or teams to complete assignments. Certain courses have been, and will be, designated for use of the MyDevice classroom. Additional classrooms will be converted to the BYOD classroom format over time.

Brit McKay, associate professor of accounting, stated, “The MyDevice Lab [is] unique in that it foster[s] collaborative learning among students. I was able to teach the coursework as well as team building. Students commented that it more closely resembled a ‘real world’ work environment. I rebuilt my class to take advantage of this opportunity and went to a more web-friendly delivery; and, in my class, the experience was very positive.” Steve Moss, professor of logistics and supply chain management, said, “For a test semester, there were surprisingly few technology issues with the classroom.

The ‘Smart Classroom’ has great potential. It is especially useful in facilitating group discussions and collaborative project assignments. For technical lectures, the multiple HD screens improve the students’ ability to see formulae, graphs, etc. As more of our students begin using the next generation of laptops and tablets, the benefits of the smart room technology should increase dramatically. From the instructor’s perspective, the ability to wirelessly use your own laptop or tablet to manage lectures is a huge improvement. I hope this part of the new technology makes its way into all of our classrooms sooner [rather] than later.”

## The College of Business was named among Newsweek's 12 Top Business Schools

College of Business Administration Among Newsweek '12 Top Business Schools 2014'

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014



*The College of Business Administration was named to Newsweek's 12 Top Business Schools on September 15, 2014.*

The Georgia Southern University [College of Business Administration](#) was recently named one of Newsweek's [12 Top Business Schools of 2014](#). The recognition comes on the helm of the College being named as one of the nation's [Top 30 Best Online MBA Programs by BestColleges.com](#).

"We're excited about the recognition. It reflects the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff, the increasing quality of our students and the impact of our alumni," said Allen C. Amason, dean of the College of Business Administration. "As a College, we believe our stock is rising and this recognition reinforces that belief."

The College of Business Administration provides a student-centered, learning community that imparts, applies, and extends the current boundaries of knowledge about today's dynamic global business environment. The curriculum reflects the concern for academic excellence and student success. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are known for using their diverse strengths

to advance the College's core values: excellence, integrity, accountability, respect, and an appreciation for sustainability.

Other college of business programs recognized by Newsweek were the UCLA Anderson School of Management, the Rady School of Management at UC San Diego, the Carlson School of Management- University of Minnesota, and the SMU Cox School of Business.

Georgia Southern University and all of its programs contained under the University's umbrella are accredited through the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools](#). The College of Business has undergraduate and graduate accreditation through the [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business](#) (AACSB). Only about five percent of all colleges of business have AACSB accreditation.

For more information on the College of Business Administration visit [coba.georgiasouthern.edu](http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu).

# College of Education

## Faculty Collaborates on New NSF Grants in Education

### Faculty Collaborates on New NSF Grants in Education

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014



Antonio Gutierrez, a new assistant professor in the College of Education, Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, is part of two newly funded grants from the National Science Foundation totaling \$950,000. Both grants concern issues surrounding different aspects of teaching and learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The first grant seeks to increase the number of students with disabilities participating in high school computer science courses. According to Gutierrez, about 13 percent of K-12 students are identified as having disabilities but the majority of these students

are intellectually able to learn computational thinking and problem is that this group is terribly these types of courses and only about 1 science doctorates are awarded to disabilities,” Gutierrez said. The goal of CS10K, is to increase the successful

programming. “The underrepresented in percent of computer students who have the project, called Access participation of students with disabilities in Exploring Computer Science (ESC) and Computer Science Principles (CSP) courses through educator professional development and the development of curricula and tools for students with disabilities in those courses.

*COE Assistant Professor  
Antonio Gutierrez,  
Curriculum,  
Foundations and  
Reading*

The second NSF grant uses learning management systems (LMS) software and research on learning to identify and improve STEM undergraduates’ learning behaviors, motivations and outcomes. “This grant is particularly interesting because it looks at ways to improve understanding of the cognitive, metacognitive and motivational factors that influence undergraduate STEM learning outcomes using unobtrusive, technology-driven methods,” Gutierrez said. In addition, he said the study will test whether direct strategy instruction and motivational interventions embedded in a LMS can improve student learning, produce behavior-based early warning system that predicts student outcomes and will test for differential effects for women and members of underrepresented minority groups.

Gutierrez helped write the winning grant proposals and will serve as a consultant on both projects. He came to Georgia southern University from the University of Nevada, Las Vega,



where he was a grant writer and coordinator of the Center for mathematics, Science and Engineering Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The College of Education's online M.Ed. in Higher Education degree program has been ranked by TheBestSchools.org as one of "The 25 Best Online Master in Higher Education Degree Programs."

Online Master of Education Program Ranked Top Ten by TheBestSchools.Org



Georgia Southern University's online [Master of Education in Higher Education Administration](#) has been ranked number 10 on TheBestSchools.org, "[25 Best Online Master in Higher Education Degree Programs](#)." The selection was based on several factors including academic excellence, course offerings, faculty strengths, and reputation.

"It's great to see the Georgia Southern online Master of Education in Higher Education Administration program ranked among the '25 Best Online Master in Higher Education Degree Programs' by TheBestSchools.org," said Thomas Koballa, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education. "The high ranking is no surprise. It confirms the excellence of the program to prepare students for higher education positions in student services, academic affairs, and business affairs. The College of Education takes its responsibility to provide high quality learning experiences for distance learning students seriously."

The online program includes courses on The Contemporary College Student, Higher Education Law, History of American Higher Education and Higher Education Administration. Students can also select up to three specialized content courses such as Politics of Higher Education, The Community College, Ethical and Professional Issues in Student Services and Higher Education Finance.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredit the program.

For more information on the College of Education (COE), visit [coe.georgiasouthern.edu](http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu).

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.

## COE earned a top 75 ranking out of 252 schools offering online graduate education programs in the 2015 U.S. News & World Report “Best Online Graduate Education Programs” released January 7.

### University’s College of Education Ranks Top 7

JANUARY 21, 2015

*U.S. News & World Report* Ranks Best Online Graduate Education Programs

Georgia Southern University’s College of Education (COE) recently ranked No. 68 in *U.S. News & World Report’s* “[Best Online Graduate Education Programs](#).”



*U.S. News & World Report* has ranked online graduate education schools for four years. The ranking system is based on accreditation, admissions selectivity, academic and career support services and student engagement among other factors. The report included 252 schools nationwide.

“We’re pleased to be in the top 100 tier,” said Thomas Koballa, Ph.D., dean for the College of Education. “The College of Education continues its commitment to offer high-quality online graduate programs which provide students with the cutting-edge skills they need to increase their employment options. We have a committed faculty trained to teach distance learners, and students from across the region and state know they will be engaged in a rigorous graduate program that furthers their career as an educator in many professional settings.”

For more information about Georgia Southern COE graduate programs, visit the Graduate Academic Services Center at <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/gasc/>.

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## COE ranked number six on The Best School's "25 Best Online Master in Education in Early Childhood Education Degree Programs."

Georgia Southern's Master in Early Childhood Education Degree Makes Top 25 Programs by The Best Schools

JANUARY 26, 2015



Georgia Southern University ranked No. 6 on The Best School's ["25 Best Online Master in Education in Early Childhood Education Degree Programs."](#) Rankings for the article were determined by several weighted factors including academic excellence, course offerings, faculty strengths and overall reputation. TheBestSchools.org is a leading resource for prospective students seeking a college or university degree.

The Georgia Southern [Master in Early Childhood Education](#) program is a 36-credit hour program that helps students develop the necessary skills to demonstrate content knowledge and diverse teaching and learning experiences as well as analyze student learning and a true commitment to knowledge, skills, dispositions of the profession, diversity and technology.

To read the full article, please visit [www.thebestschools.org/rankings](http://www.thebestschools.org/rankings).

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906 offers more than 120-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University is one of the Top 10 most popular universities in the nation according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and is the top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. Visit: [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu)

## **COE's online graduate programs ranked number 63 in the U.S. News & World Report "Best Online Programs for Veterans."**

**COE Ranks in Top Tier of Best Online Graduate Programs for Veterans**

**MAY 21, 2015**

COE's online graduate programs ranked number 63 in *U.S. News & World Report's* just released "Best Online Programs for Veterans."

The rankings covered online bachelor's degree programs and master's degree programs in business, education, engineering, computer information technology and nursing. To qualify for the "Best Online Programs for Veterans" rankings, the 737 online degree programs featured first had to be among the [top 75 percent of schools ranked in the "2015 Best Online Programs."](#) For those rankings, *U.S. News* "evaluated regionally accredited degree-granting programs on a number of factors, which, depending on the discipline, could have included their affordability, faculty credentials, student services and reputation," according to a news release.

Programs had to be certified for the GI Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program, two initiatives sponsored by the federal government to help veterans reduce the cost of school. Public schools that don't participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program still qualified if they offer in-state tuition to student veterans from out of state. Click here for more information on the ["Best Online Programs for Veterans Rankings."](#)

## COE Funds Innovation Awards

### Innovation Incentive Proposals Awarded

**JANUARY 22, 2015**

To better tailor COE's programs to the educational needs of Georgia's education professionals, COE is spear-heading an effort to fund unique, cutting-edge academic programs developed by faculty. "We have a strong legacy of producing quality educators and educational leaders, but we're not satisfied to stop there," explained COE Dean Thomas R. Koballa. "The Innovation Incentive Program grew out of our desire to institutionalize innovation, and to bring together faculty from across the College in a cooperative effort to meet the needs of our students and in-service educators in our region and beyond."



*Drs. Mete Akcaoglu and Eunbae Lee*

Three proposals were funded this fall. "Digital Media and Learning: Design, Make, Play," was developed by Assistant Professors Mete Akcaoglu and Eunbae Lee to create a program to help pre-service and in-service educators use the latest technology as a learning tool using such cutting edge technology as robotics, gaming and 3-D printing. The proposal includes creating a flexible technology space where students become comfortable using the technology, learn how to incorporate it in lesson plans and help K-12 students see how technology can help solve real-world problems. The space also will be used to facilitate collaborative research projects and to provide faculty with professional development.

Also funded was "Improving Education for K-12 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students," a proposal developed by Assistant Professor Alisa Leckie and Associate Professor Robert Lake to bring additional knowledge and practical skills to those working with English language learners. The final project funded in this round of proposals is "M.A.T. in Early Childhood Education," which will lead to a master's degree and initial Georgia teaching license for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree and are interested in a career as a teacher of young children. The proposal was developed by Assistant Professor Katie Brkich and Associate Professor Julie Maudlin.



*Drs. Alisa Leckie and Robert Lake*

"I am impressed by how each proposal took advantage of the expertise and talent that already exists in the College while addressing specific needs that reach beyond our institutional walls,"

commented Koballa. Koballa said additional Innovation Incentive Program proposals may be funded in the coming year.



## **Georgia Southern University's National Youth-At-Risk Center Conference Breaks Attendance Record**

### **Georgia Southern University's National Youth-At-Risk Center Conference Breaks Attendance Record**

**MARCH 23, 2015**

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 10, 2015: More than 1,500 professionals from across the globe travelled to Savannah, Georgia, for Georgia Southern University's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Conference, directed by the College of Education's NYAR Center, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from March 1, 2015 through March 4, 2015.

The conference's official count Wednesday reached a record-high of 1,534 in attendance, making this the largest attendance in conference history and one of the largest conferences of this kind in the United States.

"Adults who serve youth placed at risk value the training opportunity this conference provides, not only to better serve our students in school and in life, but also attendees have the ability to network and meet with colleagues to discuss new ways to reach our children in positive ways," remarked Dan Rea, Co-Director of the NYAR Center in the College of Education at Georgia Southern University.

Participants had an opportunity to hear three internationally recognized keynote speakers as well as benefit from over 120 training sessions featuring educational experts during four days. The conference helps professionals create safe, healthy, caring and intellectually empowering educational environments for children and adolescents.

"People come to this conference year after year because every session helps teachers, counselors, principals, law enforcement officers, social workers and anyone else working with youth placed at risk to find ways to successfully bring about change in our society," said Eric Landers, Co-Director of the NYAR Center in the College of Education at Georgia Southern University.

Organized by the College of Education's NYAR Center in collaboration with the Division of Continuing Education at Georgia Southern University, the NYAR Conference provides annual professional training and certification for adults who serve youth. For additional information and to view the complete program, visit the NYAR Conference website at [www.nationalyouthatrisk.org](http://www.nationalyouthatrisk.org).

The NYAR Center also directs the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Conference in Savannah and the NYAR Conference in Las Vegas. For more information about the Center's educational initiatives, visit <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/nyar/>.

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# Economic Impact of Annual COE Conference Tops \$2 Million

## Economic Impact of Annual COE Conference Tops \$2 Million

**JULY 14, 2015**

In 2015, the College of Education's (COE) annual National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Conference added \$2.3 million in economic "output" according to a report just released by the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED). The conference, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, is Georgia Southern University's largest and longest running conference. The economic impact was calculated for Savannah, Georgia, where the conference is held each year.

"We've known that the NYAR conference is an important annual event for professionals at all levels dealing with at-risk youth," said COE Dean Thomas Koballa. "What we didn't know is how important this conference is to the local economy, as well," he added. The conference has been held in Savannah, Georgia, since 1989. It is Georgia Southern's longest running national conference.

Data from the March 2015 conference was used for the report. Attendees came from 44 states and as far away as China.

According to conference co-chair, Dan Rea, "The conference is a valuable professional learning experience because it holistically trains educators to create safe, healthy, caring, and intellectually empowering educational environments for youth at risk."

The 2015 conference drew 1,427 attendees, 196 of which were based in the Savannah area. The analysis found that \$1.6 million in capital was "directly spent by visitors in the form of goods and services," which set off another round of spending in form of business-to-business transactions of \$1.43 million and individual-to-business transactions of \$840,000.

Nearly 60 percent of the attendees responding to a survey said they would return to the Savannah area without the conference.

"Our goal first and foremost is to provide the best possible environment for learning and creating professional connections for those attending the National Youth-At-Risk Conference. This report shows that if you meet participants' needs, there's an additional payoff to the hosting city even after the conference is over," said Koballa. "That so many of the attendees were impressed with the conference and site that they will return to visit Savannah speaks to the professionalism of all those involved with the conference," added Koballa.

The National Youth-At-Risk Conference is organized by the National Youth-At-Risk Center at the College of Education and the Division of Continuing Education. It is one of five conferences sponsored by COE and held in Savannah. The others are: Global Education Summit; Rural HIV

Research and Training Conference; Cross-Cultural Counseling and Education Conference for Research, Action and Change; and Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative Conference.

BBRED is part of the Business Innovation Group at Georgia Southern University.

# College of Health and Human Sciences

## School of Nursing Receives \$2.2 million in grant funding

### School of Nursing Receives \$2.2 Million in Grant Funding

AUGUST 19, 2014



This summer, Georgia Southern University's [School of Nursing](#) received more than \$2.2 million in grant funding, which will serve three purposes: help to establish a Center for Nursing Scholarship and Research, introduce a new graduate level Chronic Illness Certificate Program and provide scholarships to students seeking a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) degree.

The School of Nursing received one grant from the University System of Georgia (USG) and two from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA).

In place to support faculty retention and recruitment, Georgia Southern University received approximately \$221,000 over a two-year period from USG. The grant will help establish the groundwork for a Center for Nursing Scholarship and Research, providing support services for junior and senior faculty.

"The grant will allow faculty to obtain tenure, help them to provide better instruction in addition to advancing their own interests and capabilities," said Sharon Radzysinski, Ph.D., chair of the School of Nursing. "The Center will be a great asset to Georgia Southern University as it will help promote the careers and successes of our current professors."

The Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC) grant from HRSA is being used to develop the Chronic Illness Certificate Program, which will provide educational opportunities for nutrition, public health, military science and FNP students to work together in interprofessional teams while providing health care to military men and women, their families, veterans and members of the community who suffer from MCC.

During the program, a variety of issues will be discussed including: MCC, disabilities and laws associated with providing care to those patients; healthy living, issues common among military personnel and their families, veterans, and patients suffering from disease processes requiring end-of-life and palliative care issues. The grant also provides for faculty salaries and technology to support the initiation and promotion of the program over a three year period. Available to all majors treating chronic illness, graduate students may begin enrolling in fall 2015.

In addition, the second HRSA grant is a traineeship grant which will support tuition, books and stipends for FNP students to complete their education. The grant covers a two-year period of time.

“In the past, the School of Nursing has received traineeship monies,” said Deborah Allen, Ph.D., Graduate Program director of the School of Nursing. “However, at that time, the grant was submitted and almost all of the schools who submitted an application received some type of funds. I think the most we had received was approximately \$50,000. This time, the submission was a competitive process and we received close to \$700,000 for two years to support students wishing to obtain a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a FNP focus.”

Grant applications are scored based on Health Professionals Shortage Areas status, race, ethnicity, disadvantage status and other criteria.

For more information on the School of Nursing and its programs visit the [College of Health and Human Sciences](#).

## Online Sports Management Degree Ranked No. 6 by Top Management Degrees

### Online Sports Management Degree Ranked No. 6 by Top Management Degrees



*Photo by Jeremy Wilburn*

Georgia Southern University's online master's degree in [Sports Management](#) was recently ranked number six by the website TopManagementDegrees.com. According to [Top Management Degrees](#), the ranking was designed to help prospective students make a smart choice about where to invest their time and money while earning their degree, and to connect students to high quality educational opportunities.

"Honors such as the number six ranking from TopManagementDegrees.com and similar rankings from other publications provide validation for the decision to move our master's program online, and provide recognition for the quality of our graduate coursework," said Christopher Barnhill, professor. "Our faculty has a wide variety of expertise and experiences that benefit our students. Many of our professors have industry experience and bring what they've learned outside of the classroom, into the classroom."

The 36-credit, online program was designed to provide academic preparation and practical experience in the skills and techniques necessary to be successful in the Sport Business and Leisure field. Students are able to complete the program in 24 months, or as their schedule permits.

"Moving our program online has allowed us to attract students who would not have traditionally attended Georgia Southern," said Barnhill. "Many of our students are currently working in the industry, so each one brings a unique perspective to our course discussions. This adds depth to topics beyond what is common in traditional on-ground courses."

Upon completion of the program, graduates are prepared to work in sports marketing, promotion and advertising; sports information, media and communications; The Olympic Movement, state and county sports commissions, athletic leagues and associations, sport facilities and event management, and professional teams or collegiate athletic departments.

The Top Management Degrees ranking includes 25 online Sports Management master's degree programs from across the country, including Ohio University, Texas A&M University, The University of Florida and Gonzaga University.

[See the full list.](#)

For more information on the online Sports Management master's degree visit [chhs.georgiasouthern.edu](http://chhs.georgiasouthern.edu).

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## Five Years of the Honors Program's Alternate Break Trip to Camp Blue Skies at Camp Twin Lakes

Five Years of the Honors Program's Alternate Break Trip to Camp Blue Skies at Camp Twin Lakes

APRIL 1, 2015



*Camp Blue Skies at Camp Twin Lakes with Georgia Southern – 2015 (photo courtesy of Camp Blue Skies)*

A five year milestone was reached this spring break as honors program students again volunteered their time with Camp Blue Skies, a camp for adults with developmental disabilities. The camp partners with Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA to give its campers a fun-filled week of activities like paddle-boating, zip-lining, sports, and arts and crafts. Dr. Jerri Kropp (Child and Family Development) and Dr. Brent Wolfe (Therapeutic Recreation) have led the trip all five years. A handful of students have participated in this trip each of their four years at Georgia Southern, and this year featured the return of some alternate break trip alumni.

Camp Blue Skies promotes recreation and socialization, but the students often find that the camp teaches many life skills. "My experience at Camp Twin Lakes opened my heart in so many ways. Being with the Camp Blue Skies staff and campers reminded me that it's okay to be myself," said Morgan Herrington (Therapeutic Recreation '17). She added, "Being your own individual helps others feel comfortable in their own skin, and it opens so many doors for friendship."

Camp Blue Skies founder and director, Dick Sesler, is each year impressed by the amount of energy and enthusiasm the Georgia Southern students bring to the week at camp. "I tell people that after seeing these students in action, I know the future is in good hands," he said.

Herrington says that the week is a great experience, one that all honors students should consider. "It opens your eyes to many different ways of life, and it helps you adapt to circumstances that you may never think of. You become aware of more things, such as living with a disability, but you become more accepting also," said Herrington.

# School of Nursing celebrates Inaugural White Coat Ceremony

School of Nursing Celebrates Inaugural White Coat Ceremony



SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

*Students from the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing chat after donning their white coats during the University's inaugural White Coat Ceremony on Friday, Sept. 19 at the Performing Arts Center. The White Coat Ceremony was initially designed by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) to emphasize the commitment of patient-centered care for incoming physicians to medical school. More than twenty years later, nurses are now a part of the tradition.*

The Georgia Southern University [School of Nursing](#) was recently chosen as part of a test program in which 100 schools received funding to pilot its first-ever White Coat Ceremony. The School celebrated the event on Friday, Sept. 19 at the Georgia Southern University Performing Arts Center. The ceremony was the result of a collaborative partnership between [The Arnold P. Gold Foundation](#) (APGF) and the [American Association of Colleges of Nursing](#) (AACN).

“Being chosen to participate in the inaugural White Coat Ceremony acknowledges the stellar reputation that the School of Nursing programs at Georgia Southern University have at the national level,” said Jean Bartels, Ph.D., former AACN president and the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Georgia Southern University. “This ceremony places the School of Nursing in elite company and recognizes the program for its historically strong curriculum and accomplished graduates.”

The White Coat Ceremony was initially designed by the APGF to emphasize the commitment of patient-centered care for incoming physicians attending medical school. More than twenty years later, nurses are now a part of the tradition.

“By offering White Coat Ceremonies, our schools are sending a clear message to new nursing students that compassionate care must be a hallmark of their clinical practice,” says AACN President Eileen T. Breslin. “Securing a commitment to providing patient-centered care at the beginning of a nurse’s professional formation will help to raise the quality of care available to all patients.”

During the ceremony, participants recited an oath committing to high quality care and received a commemorative pin as a reminder of their pledge.

“Nursing has the answers to the predominant health care dilemmas of today and the future,” said Bartels. “I encourage these new nursing students to work hard during their nursing studies to become quality nurses who are prepared for clinical leadership and extremely skilled in outcomes-based practice.”

The Georgia Southern University School of Nursing is ranked 19th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* for its Family Nurse Practitioner graduate program.

Teresa Cezar, internal medicine physician, located in Baxley, Georgia and the Southern Peaches Health Services donated the students' white coats.

***About the Arnold P. Gold Foundation***

*The Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF): As a growing, international not-for-profit organization we have a critical mission: to optimize the experience and outcomes of health care for both patients and practitioners by promoting care that is as humanistic as it is technologically sophisticated. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation works with physicians and nurses in training and in practice, as well as other members of the healthcare team, to instill a culture of respect, dignity and compassion for both patients and professionals. When skilled practitioners build caring, trusting and collaborative relationships with patients, studies reveal more appropriate medical decisions, better patient adherence with treatment plans, and less costly healthcare outcomes. Learn more at [www.humanism-in-medicine.org](http://www.humanism-in-medicine.org).*

# Exercise is Medicine initiative comes to campus

## Exercise is Medicine Initiative Comes to Campus

**FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

In collaboration with "[Wellness Week](#)," Georgia Southern University is teaming up with the national initiative "[Exercise is Medicine on Campus \(EIM-OC\)](#)" to launch a weeklong educational experience promoting physical activity from Feb. 5-12.

EIM-OC is designed to involve and encourage faculty, staff and students to promote the importance of health and well-being. Through this initiative, members of campus will help by raising awareness about the benefits of physical activity and by educating students on how to develop and maintain healthy physical activity habits. The initiative will also work toward connecting University health care providers with fitness specialists to collaborate on an exercise prescription referral system.

This is the first time that EIM-OC is coming to Georgia Southern. Representatives from EIM-OC, including Dr. Robert Sallis and Dr. Carena Winters, will be among the many guest speakers on campus during the week. Dr. Sallis serves as the chairman for the Exercise is Medicine initiative. He is also a spokesman for the "Every Body Walk!" campaign, and supports the recommendation of 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Dr. Winters is an ACSM Certified Clinical Exercise Specialist with an EIM Level 3 credential, is a member of the Exercise is Medicine Advisory Board and serves as Chair of the EIM-OC committee. Dr. Sallis and Dr. Winters will work to ensure that Georgia Southern achieves a Gold level standard according to EIM-OC criteria.

Mark Fenton, former host of PBS's "America's Walking" program will also make an appearance during "Wellness Week" in support of the EIM-OC initiative. He's a vocal advocate for non-motorized transportation, a frequent consultant on bicycle and pedestrian community plans, and a recognized authority on public health issues and the need for community, environmental and public-policy initiatives to encourage more walking, bicycling, and transit use.

"This is brand new to Georgia Southern," said Bridget Melton, Ed.D, physical activity and healthful living director in the University's School of Health and Kinesiology. "Through this new initiative on campus we are leading universities to promote this program."

The initiative will take place in various locations on campus ranging from the Russell Union Rotunda to the Nursing/Chemistry Building. Activities for participants will include Zumba, fitness testing, and games. Prizes including water bottles, pedometers, and T-shirts will be handed out throughout the week to participants as they learn about eating healthy and staying active for 150 minutes per week.

For more information on the initiative, visit the [Georgia Southern College of Health and Human Sciences](#).

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## College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

### University celebrates new \$8.65 million Communication Arts Building

#### University Celebrates New \$8.65 Million Communication Arts Building



*Georgia Southern University celebrated the newly renovated Sanford Hall on Thursday, Aug. 21 with a ribbon cutting. The Department of Communication Arts will now call the \$8.65 million state-of-the-art facility home.*

Georgia Southern University celebrated a newly renovated Sanford Hall with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, Aug 21. The \$8.65 million Communication Arts building, formerly an apartment-style dormitory, will be home to more than 900 students majoring in Communication Studies, Multimedia Film & Production, Multimedia Journalism, Public Relations and Theatre.

“As we look toward the future, we designed this building in such a way that we can adapt as the media continues to adapt,” said Pamela Bourland-Davis, Ph.D., Chair and professor of the Department of Communication Arts. “For example, we plan to add robotic cameras in the lecture hall to capture guest presentations so the community can enjoy them...at the same time, this provides our students with state-of-the-art technology experience.”

The renovations included replacing an internal wood structure with a steel frame to allow for studio and classroom space and offers multiple classrooms, faculty office space, an advisement



center, broadcast and film studios, a converged media lab, lecture hall that will be used for film screenings and the WVGS radio station.

“This is a tremendous day for Georgia Southern and for the Communication Arts degree programs,” said Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., president. “We are very, very proud of where we’ve come from and now we’re looking forward to our future.”

Sanford Hall opened as a dormitory in 1939 and after a mid 1970’s remodel, offered the first apartment-style residence living on campus. The building closed as a residence hall in 2011.

For more information on the Department of Communication Arts visit [class.georgiasouthern.edu](http://class.georgiasouthern.edu)

## Georgia Southern wins Top Advocacy Team at International Mediation Tournament

Georgia Southern Wins Top Advocacy Team at International Mediation Tournament

MARCH 27, 2015



*Picture are (L to R): Jonatan Quintyne, Dylan John, Dick Calkins (with the International Academy of Dispute Resolution), Jessica Shanken and Tashai Gilman.*

Competing against graduate law students from around the world, Georgia Southern won first place in the advocacy category of the International Law School Mediation Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa, held March 18-21.

The event marked the first time that a team from the University was invited to the international tournament. Even more impressive, however, is the fact that it was also the first time an undergraduate team made it to the finals in the tournament's history.

"It was unprecedented for an undergraduate team to make it to the finals, let alone win, in a competition against law school students," said Dr. Laura Agnich, assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and advisor to the University Mock Mediation Club. "The president of INADR [International Academy of Dispute Resolution], Dick Calkins, who hosted the competition, emailed me to let me know how amazing our students are and how shocked the law schools were when they won.

“I’m not surprised that they won considering the amount of work the students put into training,” she added. “They meet multiple times a week leading up to competitions and invest countless hours into understanding all facets of the cases they mediate.”

The team from Georgia Southern consisted of members of the Mock Mediation Club: Dylan John, Jonathan Quintyne, Jessica Shanken and Tashai Gilman. The club was founded in 2013 in order to train students in international mediation, and has trained mediation teams from Sri Lanka, Canada, Brazil and the U.S. The Sri Lankan ambassador to the U.S. has recognized the club for its work.

“Our Mock Mediation Club is very unique in its approach and inspires members to engage the subject of advocacy and mediation more than just looking at it from a competitive angle,” said John, club president. “We, as a team, are known for attending competitions and helping train other teams prior to and during the competition. We see this as the right thing to do and a further refinement of our skill sets even if these teams could potentially be our opposing teams when the competition rounds kick off.”

The Mock Mediation Club had been in existence for only a year when it attended the Intercollegiate International Mediation Tournament for undergraduate schools at Brenau University in November 2014. Despite being relatively new to the experience, the team placed second in the advocate client category and ninth in the mediator category. Because of their performance in this tournament, they were invited to compete in Iowa.

In addition to winning the advocacy category outright, the team also placed ninth in the world for the mediator category, making it to the semi-finals among their international and graduate counterparts. Quintyne and Shanken also received fifth place Outstanding Individual awards in the advocacy category.

Students’ travel to the tournament was supported by the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and the SGA.

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# CLASS departments excel in 2014-2015

## CLASS Departments Excel in 2014-2015

**MARCH 1, 2015**

### Foreign Languages

Dr. Horst Kurz was recognized with the FLAG President's Award, which recognizes his lengthy, dedicated, multifaceted, and sustained contributions to the Foreign Language Association of Georgia. He received the award at the annual meeting of the association. Congratulations, Dr. Kurz!

### History

Our greatest point of pride in the Department of History this past year is that five faculty members in the Department of History have published books with major presses, including Johns Hopkins, Georgia, North Carolina (two), and WW Norton.

### Literature & Philosophy

#### [Professor Caren Town Examines Banned Books](#)

In her book, *"Unsuitable" Books*, Caren Town focuses on the attempted and successful banning of young adult fiction from media centers and classrooms across the nation. This book examines the legal and experiential history of censorship in libraries and public schools, looking closely at young adult novels from the early 1970s until today that have been the subject of book challenges.

### Music

Dr. John Thompson (Associate Professor of Music) presented his eight-channel audiovisual composition "Accretion Flows" at the International Festival For Innovations in Music Production and Composition in Leeds, U.K. in March 2015. iFIMPaC is an annual event focusing on practice-related innovations in Music Production and Composition. iFIMPaC creates a unique environment for composers, producers, music industry representatives, academics, educators and students to discuss their compositional, pedagogical and production work as practice-led research.

### Political Science

The Department of Political Science had more than 20 students participate in internship opportunities at the national, state, and local levels. This is more than double the number of those that participated in internships in the previous year. These internships were fulfilled in the office of White House Personnel, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, the Georgia State Legislature, and local attorneys-at-law offices.

## **Psychology**

The Doctor of Psychology program received its first ever accreditation from the American Psychological Association.

## **Sociology & Anthropology**

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology established a new entity to support research, community outreach, and student engagement. The Center for Social Gerontology (CSG) is a multidisciplinary collaboration of faculty, students, alumni, and community members who are interested in making a positive difference in the lives of aging persons and their families.

## **Writing & Linguistics**

The top story/event is still the major book contracts awarded to our two alumni sisters, Cassie (2010) and Kate Beasley (2011), both of whom who graduated with perfect 4.0 GPAs. While faculty have also had a productive year of publishing, this event takes priority because it involves not one but two students. In fact, Cassie's *Circus Mirandus*, a middle-grades fantasy novel, will be officially released tomorrow, and it has already earned 4.9 out of 5 stars on Amazon.

## **Public & Nonprofit Studies**

Our top story/event from the past year centers around the pursuit of the Institute's mission to engage our students in community service and outreach. Last year, graduate students in the Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies completed 35 different service learning projects and internships (of 300 hours or more) in local, state, and federal governments, as well as nonprofit organizations throughout the region. Through the Institute's partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association, students completed projects ranging from a citizen satisfaction survey for the City of Statesboro, a solar panel analysis for the City of Baxley, to a historic homes preservation plan for the City of Tybee Island. Students also held internships with Governor Deal's Office of Planning and Budget in Atlanta, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, and with the United Nations' Division of Economic and Social Affairs. In these positions, students were engaged in important projects, developed hands on experience and expertise, and continued honing the skills necessary to lead the next generation of public servants.

## **Women's & Gender Studies**

The Women's & Gender Studies program was proud to present the 2015 Georgia Southern University Keynote Address for Women's History Month. Professors Ann Short Chirhart and Kathleen Ann Clark delivered a fascinating talk, "'Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History: Georgia Women Shape the Twentieth Century,'" based on their new book, *Georgia Women*.

## **Irish Research & Teaching**

C.I.R.T. successfully inaugurated its Wexford-Savannah Axis Research Project, which interrogates the causes and effects of the disproportionate representation of Wexford, one of Ireland's 32 traditional counties, among the Irish community in Savannah. One highlight was five weeks of archival research by a dozen undergraduate students at the Georgia Historical Society, the Catholic Diocese of Savannah Archives, the National Archives of Ireland, and the Wexford County Archives.

## College of Science and Mathematics

### Georgia Southern University named “Green College” by The Princeton Review for Five Years

#### Georgia Southern University Named “Green College” by The Princeton Review for Five Years

**MAY 4, 2015**

Georgia Southern University has been named to The Princeton Review’s Guide to 353 Green Colleges for the fifth year in a row. This guide recognizes the most environmentally responsible “green” colleges throughout the country.

The guide profiles colleges and universities with exceptional commitments to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation for students, campus policies, initiatives and activities. Georgia Southern’s sustainability action projects like “No Impact Week” and organizations like the Geo Club and Green Ambassadors, among others have helped the University earn this title.

“We are proud to be among the sustainability leaders in the country,” said Lissa Leege, director of the University’s Center for Sustainability. “Our students’ vision to propose a sustainability fee has allowed for tremendous sustainability advances on our campus over the past two years.”

Marvin Mills, associate vice president for Facilities at the University, added, “Georgia Southern is recognized for training the next generation of leaders who will ultimately be responsible for putting green ideas into practice. By infusing sustainability principles into every aspect of higher education, from instruction to the physical part of campus, there is a new priority for a whole generation of leaders, educated and trained to make a greener world now. Georgia Southern is becoming a ‘living laboratory’ for continuous improvement in sustainability.”

The Princeton Review developed the ranking list using data from its institutional survey for its Green Rating and its surveys of students attending the colleges. Ten data points from the institutional survey were factored into the assessment. Data from the student survey included student ratings of how sustainability issues influenced their education and life on campus; administration and student support for environmental awareness and conservation efforts; and the visibility and impact of student environmental groups.

“Among nearly 10,000 teens who participated in our 2015 College Hopes & Worries Survey, 61 percent told us that having information about a school’s commitment to the environment would influence their decision to apply to or attend the college,” said Robert Franek, The Princeton Review’s senior vice president and publisher. (A complete report on that survey is at [www.princetonreview.com/college-hopes-worries](http://www.princetonreview.com/college-hopes-worries).) “We strongly recommend Georgia Southern University and the other fine schools in this guide to environmentally-minded students who seek to study and live at green colleges.”

The Princeton Review first published this guide in 2010. It remains the only free, annually updated downloadable guide to green colleges. The free 218-page guide is downloadable at [www.princetonreview.com/green-guide](http://www.princetonreview.com/green-guide).

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For full article, please click [here](#)



## Biology

# Georgia Southern University receives Georgia Peach Green Building award

## Georgia Southern University Receives Georgia Peach Green Building Award

MAY 4, 2015



*Kelly Wilson accepts the Georgia Peach Green Building Award on behalf of Georgia Southern University for the Biological Sciences Building.*

Georgia Southern University was granted the Georgia Peach Green Building Award by the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) for the new Biological Sciences Building, which meets requirements of the Georgia Peach Green Building Rating System.

“Georgia Southern University is excited to have received the Peach Certification for the Biological Sciences Building,” said Bonnie McMakin, project architect for Facilities Planning, Design and Construction. “This building is the first of this magnitude and the goals were to make it as sustainable and environmentally-sensitive as it was economically-feasible. Over the years sustainable practices have been incorporated into the buildings and campus infrastructure that are environmentally-sensitive and ‘green’ features. This project is the

accumulation of these practices, and together they have made the project a success by incorporating so many of these features into the project.”

The “Peach Certification” was established in 2008 by the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction Act of 2008. Buildings that optimize energy performance, increase the use of Georgia-produced materials and products, protect the state’s natural resources and reduce the burden on the state’s water supply receive points toward the award.

The Biological Sciences Building was constructed using 60.3 percent of Georgia-based materials, and by using low-flow faucets, sinks and toilets, the building uses 40 percent less water than it would with standard fixtures. Additionally, with the use of 57 Solar Photovoltaic Panels, five Solar Thermal panels to produce hot water for the building and other energy efficient products, the building’s total energy usage is 20.5 percent less than with normal usage of electricity.

“To be recognized by the GSFIC and the Board of Regents for incorporating these sustainable features is an honor that Georgia Southern is proud to receive,” McMakin said. “The Peach Certification has become a standard for our projects as we move forward with new buildings, renovations and maintenance of the existing buildings on campus.”

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# The Georgia Southern University Department of Biology achieves Recognition Level II

## GS Biology PULSE Certification Pilot Results

**JUNE 1, 2015**

The Georgia Southern University [Department of Biology](#) achieves Recognition Level II: Developing.

The PULSE (Partnership for Undergraduate Life Science Education) certification process is an ambitious endeavor designed to motivate important changes in life sciences education nationwide. More than 70 life science departments applied to be part of the pilot certification project, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, and eight were selected based on initial evidence of transformed and innovative educational practices, including [Gaston College](#), [Whatcom Community College](#), [Davidson College](#), [Stony Brook University](#), [Georgia Southern University](#), the [University of Wyoming](#), and [Morgan State University](#). The programs chosen represent a wide variety of schools, including two-year colleges, liberal-arts institutions, regional comprehensive colleges, research universities and Minority Serving Institutions.

Complete story here: [PULSE Progression Levels Announced!](#)

Visit PULSE at: [http://www.pulsecommunity.org/?xg\\_source=msg\\_mes\\_network](http://www.pulsecommunity.org/?xg_source=msg_mes_network)

## Ed Mondor wins NACADA Advising Award

**Dr. Ed Mondor Wins NACADA Award**

**APRIL 28, 2015**



Dr. Edward Mondor has been awarded the Outstanding Advising Award – Faculty Academic Advising. Established in 1983, the NACADA Annual Awards Program for Academic Advising honors individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the improvement of academic advising. NACADA is a representative and advocate of academic advising and those providing that service to higher education. For more information, visit [nacada.ksu.edu](http://nacada.ksu.edu).

[Dr. Mondor](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology.

## Georgia Southern professor selected as the 2015 University Science Teacher of the Year for the state of Georgia

Georgia Southern Professor Selected as the 2015 University Science Teacher of the Year for the State of Georgia

JANUARY 15, 2015



Dr. Laura Regassa, professor of Biology at Georgia Southern University has been selected as the 2015 University Science Teacher of the Year for the State of Georgia by the Georgia Science Teachers Association. Read the [full press release](#) from the Georgia Science Teachers Association.

## *Chemistry*

# Dr. Rafael Quirino receives Charles H. Herty Fellowship

## Dr. Rafael Quirino receives Charles H. Herty Fellowship

APRIL 29, 2015



The College of Science and Mathematics congratulates Dr. Rafael Quirino on being selected as the first Charles H. Herty Fellowship recipient. The fellowship is sponsored by the Herty Advanced Materials Development Center (AMDC) and the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Economic Development at Georgia Southern to promote applied research in materials science, chemistry and engineering. Its purpose is to strengthen ties between the academic faculty of Georgia Southern and the applied scientists at the Herty AMDC. The selection committee sought candidates who are actively involved in scientific work that is of direct value to the Herty AMDC mission, its ongoing research and its customers. Dr. Quirino will receive summer support for his research and funding to support a graduate research assistant through a Herty Graduate Fellowship.

Learn [more](#) about Dr. Quirino and his research.

*Mathematical Sciences*

## Math Jeopardy Team wins 3rd at MAA-SE

### Math Jeopardy Team Wins 3rd at MAA-SE

**MARCH 16, 2015**

The Math Jeopardy! teams from Georgia Southern traveled this weekend to the Ninety-fourth Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America, hosted this year by the University of North Carolina Wilmington. For the past twelve years MAA-SE has sponsored this competition, and it continues to be one of the highlights of the meeting for undergraduate students. Georgia Southern had two teams to compete:

Team A members: Garry Brown, Stephanie Hesse, Charles Lanning, and Yunwei Zhang

Team B members: Matt Cullens, Kayla Hagerty, Sam Hicks, and Vivek Patel

On Friday, both teams did very well in the first preliminary round, which launched both teams into the second preliminary round. Team B scored enough points in the second preliminary round to win the wild card, sending them to Final Jeopardy on Saturday (Ultimate Pi Day).

In Final Jeopardy, Team B won **3rd Place (out of 26 schools)** overall, falling only to the University of South Carolina and Austin Peay University!!! Photos courtesy of Masa Uchida.



# Averitt Awards for Excellence in Graduate Research and Instruction

## Averitt Awards for Excellence in Graduate Research and Instruction

The Averitt Award is the highest honor bestowed upon graduate students within the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. Through nominations from each department's graduate program faculty, two semi-finalists will be chosen by the Graduate Program's Director/Coordinator, one from every category (Excellence in Research and Excellence in Instruction). The Averitt Award will consist of two separate \$1,000 cash prizes and a Crystal Eagle trophy. This trophy has been specially designed for the award and clearly denotes the name of the awardee and the classification of the award (Excellence in Research or Excellence in Instruction).



*2015 Averitt Award Winner: Zachary Dietrich – Excellence in Research*



*2015 Averitt Award Winner: Joshua Holloway – Excellence in Instruction*



## *Military Science*

# Georgia Southern ROTC Cadet ranks fourth in nation

## Georgia Southern ROTC Cadet Ranks Fourth in Nation

**DECEMBER 8, 2014**

STATESBORO, GA – United States Army Cadet Command, which oversees all Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs nationwide, recently announced the top 10 Cadets on the 2015 Fiscal Year's national Order of Merit List (OML).

The rankings are based on a number of criteria, including college grade point averages, Army Physical Fitness Tests and athletic performances, Battalion OMLs, and ROTC training evaluations held at the Battalion level and at the Leader Development and Assessment Course held at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Of the 5,617 Cadets expected to graduate and commission between Fall 2014 and Summer 2015, Georgia Southern University Cadet [Matthew Horne](#) ranks fourth nationally. Matt is an International Studies major from Stedman, North Carolina and currently holds a 3.94 GPA.



He serves as the Commander for Task Force SEGA, which encompasses both the Eagle Battalion at Georgia Southern University and the Coastal Battalion. Coastal Battalion is comprised of Cadets from Georgia Southern's partnership schools – Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah State University, Savannah College of Art and Design, and East Georgia State College.

Cadet Horne was also a member of the Georgia Southern football program during his freshman year and currently serves as the treasurer for the Georgia Southern University Arabic Club and the head delegate for the school's first Model Arab League team, which will compete in the Spring. He was also named to the President's List the past five semesters.

Matt was a recipient of a 3-year ROTC scholarship and the Bothwell "Snag" Johnson ROTC Scholarship at Georgia Southern.

He is the only representative from USACC Sixth Brigade, which spans the southeastern United States. He will commission in May 2015 as an active duty Infantry Officer.

# Georgia Southern receives funding for new Military Science Building

## Georgia Southern University Receives Funding for New Military Science Building

APRIL 29, 2014



Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal visited Georgia Southern on Monday to sign into law House Bill 744, a part of the 2015 Fiscal Year Budget, on the steps of the Marvin Pittman Administration Building on Sweetheart Circle, and announced the state budget included funding for a new military science building at Georgia Southern University.

“I’d like to talk specifically about some projects that I think are very close to you, which is the nine and a half million dollars in bonds for the new military science building here at Georgia Southern University,” Deal announced in front of a crowd including cadets in the University’s ROTC program. “For you ladies and gentleman who stand in the corps of cadets, we hope that you will find those funds used very appropriately.”

In addition, Deal announced that students who receive the HOPE Scholarship can expect a 3 percent boost in monies offered at both the technical college and university level throughout the state of Georgia.

“We are overwhelmed with the tremendous amount of support our legislators and Gov. Deal has shown Georgia Southern over the past several years, and we are so thankful they recognize

the importance of our military science program,” said Brooks A Keel, Ph.D., president of Georgia Southern University. “The funding for a new military science building on campus, as well as the increase in funding of the HOPE Scholarship for our students and potential students, will help us continue our mission to educate and train the future workforce and leaders of Georgia and beyond.”

Georgia state Senator Jack Hill, R-Reidsville; state Rep. Jan Tankersley, R-Brooklet; state Rep. Butch Parrish, R-Swainsboro; state Rep. Jon Burns, R-Newington; state Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, and Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee state Rep. Terry England, R-Auburn, were also on hand to acknowledge the announcements.

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*Institute for Coastal Plain Science (ICPS)*

## **Institute for Coastal Plain Science Awards Inaugural Graduate Student Research Assistantships**

**Institute for Coastal Plain Science Awards Inaugural Graduate Student Research Assistantships**

**APRIL 29, 2015**

The James H. Oliver, Jr. Institute for Coastal Plain Science (ICPS) at Georgia Southern University is proud to announce the two inaugural recipients of the ICPS Summer Graduate Research Assistantships. Jason Duff and Jamie Alfieri were selected after careful review of all submissions by a committee of ICPS faculty. Each student will receive a summer research stipend of \$4,000 to further their graduate studies.



*Jason Duff*

Duff is an M.S. student in the Department of Biology and is using field and laboratory methods to determine how antibiotics released into flowing waters, such as rivers, impact phytoplankton communities. Phytoplankton are microscopic algae that form the base of many aquatic food webs, so Duff's project will aid in developing water resource protection and management strategies.

Alfieri, also a M.S. student in the Department of Biology, is determining if parasite loads in killifish can be an indicator of salt marsh health along the Georgia coast. Interestingly, he predicts that more pristine salt marshes will have more diverse and species-rich parasite communities. If true, this will allow parasites to be used as a bioindicator of marsh health.

The ICPS furthers the College of Science and Mathematics' mission of transforming scientific knowledge into opportunities for economic development which are protective of our natural resources by 1) promoting, in coordination with public and private partnerships, interdisciplinary research and education directed toward understanding the physical and biological resources occurring below the Fall Line and their sustainable use and management and 2) enhancing curation of



*Jamie Alfieri*

the extensive natural history collections and promoting their use as research and educational tools.

For the purposes of this competition, all applicants were asked to show how their research will lead to a better understanding of the physical or biological resources occurring below the Fall Line, and to demonstrate clearly how their project is interdisciplinary.

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## **Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health**

**Faculty awarded a contract by the Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center to conduct a regional healthcare workforce needs assessment.**

**SOWEGA-AHEC Contract**

**MARCH 17, 2015**



Faculty from the Georgia Southern University, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Department of Health Policy and Management has been awarded a contract by the Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center to conduct a regional healthcare workforce needs assessment. The assessment will serve leadership across a 38 county region of Southwest Georgia. The health professions assessed include nurse practitioners, physician

assistants, registered nurses, health information technology professionals and licensed behavioral health professionals. The assessment includes quantitative analysis, qualitative analysis and workforce supply and demand forecast modeling. Dr. Bill Mase and Dr. Bettye Apenteng serve as Principal Investigators with Dr. Gulzar Shah and Dr. Yelena Tarasenko as co-investigators.

# Georgia Southern Studies Ebola and Social Media

## Ebola and Social Media

DECEMBER 22, 2014



A collaborative study including Dr. Isaac Chun-Hai Fung, assistant professor of epidemiology, at the Jiann-Ping Hsu college of Public Health, Georgia Southern University studies Ebola and the Social Media. During heightened news coverage about cases of Ebola in the USA, anecdotal observations suggested that many Americans were anxious about Ebola. Given the negligible risk of infection, their anxiety was arguably driven by perceived rather than actual risk. Published in *The Lancet*, the correspondence shows how worldwide traffic on Twitter and Google about Ebola increased as news spread about the domestic US cases and how they compare with influenza-related searches and tweets. Twitter data can provide public health practitioners with a quantitative indicator of

anxiety, anger, or negative emotions in the general public where Twitter penetration is high. This indicator could help public health practitioners to alleviate anxiety and correctly communicate the risk associated with Ebola.

# Converting Big Data into Public Health

## Converting Big Data into Public Health

MARCH 4, 2015



A collaborative work including Dr. Isaac Fung examines [public health applications of big data](#) and the increased need for collaboration and communication between big data scientists and public health practitioners. In a letter to *Science*, Dr. Fung and his collaborators suggest that big data scientists and public health practitioners must forge better relationships if the vision for public health applications of big data is to be realized. Outreach programs, self-learning modules, and textbooks that are designed for users without a programming background will help public health practitioners to pick up skills for big data analysis. In their letter, Dr. Fung and his team uses CDC's Ebola Response model as an example of a successful communication tool through which technical experts can communicate to policy makers a powerful message and facilitate resource mobilization and prompt action. Consultation with the intended audience helps ensure that the product meets their needs. Likewise, big data analyses should help public health practitioners inform policy-makers about their policy options and how they should communicate to the general public on public health issues.



## Georgia Southern examines Misperception of Child's Body Weight

**Study shows parents think their overweight preschool children are 'about the right weight'**

**JUNE 2, 2015**

Despite the rise of obesity in America, and despite the very public awareness campaigns that surround the problem, a new study from Georgia Southern suggests parents are getting worse at judging whether or not their children are overweight.

The study, "Change in Misperceptions of Child's Body Weight among Parents of American Preschool Children," is the brainchild of Dr. Jian Zhang, associate professor of epidemiology in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, and included researchers from Georgia Southern, New York University Langone Medical Center and Fudan University in Shanghai.

He says the idea for the study arose when he realized his own misperceptions about his children.



"My younger son is relatively slim compared to his friends," he said. "Both my wife and myself were concerned that the little one might have an underweight issue socially and this might not be good for a boy.

"However, when we compared the little one's weight and height with a growth chart, biologically, he is actually overweight and almost obese. Both my wife and myself are public health professionals, and we are still struggling with the discrepancy between socially and biologically acceptable norms."

According to the research, this discrepancy is prevalent in most parents.

The study compared data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 1988 to 1994, and from 2007 to 2012. Parents were asked whether they considered their child, ages 2-5 years old, to be overweight, underweight or just about the right weight.

In the earlier survey, 97 percent of the parents of boys and 88 percent of the parents of girls said their children were "about the right weight." In the later survey, 95 percent of the parents of boys and 93 percent of the parents of girls said their children were "about the right weight."

While the percentages vary little from survey to survey, it is important to note one distressing fact about the children in the second survey: they were significantly more obese than the children in the first.

“So parents are getting worse at perceiving their child’s weight status correctly. That’s bad on so many levels,” said Andrew Hansen, Dr.P.H., assistant professor of community health behavior and education and one of the researchers of the study. “If my child is overweight and I say, ‘Well, no, they’re okay. They’ll outgrow it. All the kids look like this.’ That means as a parent I’m not in a state of readiness to say we need to make changes to our eating patterns or physical activity. And if I’m not ready, then the child’s not going to get it, and we’re perpetuating the problem.”

The problem, Hansen says, is even larger than that. While only 10 percent of preschool children are overweight, statistics show that 80 percent of those overweight children will be obese as school-aged children. If they are overweight as school children, they’re even more likely to be overweight as adults. This trend is creating ripples throughout the workforce, health care system and other vital social systems in America.

“So if we don’t target these children and their parents at preschool age, where these habits start, we’ve missed the boat,” Hansen said.

Zhang says the first step to addressing any problem is to recognize it, and he hopes the study will serve as a wake-up call to both parents and health professionals. The national media have aided the study’s exposure in this regard, and details of the research have been covered by such media outlets as *The Washington Post*, *TIME* magazine, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Chicago Tribune* and the “Today” show on NBC.

Parents interested in finding out where their child fits on the Body Mass Index (BMI) can visit the [BMI Percentile Calculator for Child and Teen on the CDC Website](#). There, a parent can enter their child’s age, height and weight to find out where he or she fits among the national standards.



Once armed with the correct information, Hansen suggests parents avoid the trap of trying to make broad, extensive changes in their children’s habits. He suggests “small corrections early to avoid big problems later.”

Instead of launching a full scale overhaul of the menu, start adding vegetables to what they’re already eating. Instead of refined or processed snacks, add a fruit or a whole grain snack. Instead of forcing a child into a cardio workout, take walks with them in the evenings or on weekends and make plans to visit the park.

Though the changes seem small, he said they’ll pay dividends in the life of your child.

“Children typically follow a parent’s lead,” he said. “We parents often feel like they don’t listen, but if they see what we do and how we value something, they’ll value it, too — particularly if you start them early.”



# Georgia Southern examines the Influence of the ACA and Accreditation on Partnerships

## Influence of the ACA and Accreditation on Partnerships

JANUARY 26, 2015



A collaborative study including Dr. Gulzar Shah, Associate Dean for Research examined the influence of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and accreditation on health departments' [partnerships for community health assessments](#). The study also provides baseline data that will help determine whether the Affordable Care Act and public health accreditation will result in more collaborative community assessment and community health improvement activity by describing trends in collaborative community health assessment and community health improvement plan activities. The strengthened requirement for nonprofit hospitals to complete a community health needs assessment and implementation plan in the Affordable Care Act, concurrent with a new voluntary accreditation process for local

health departments that requires collaborative community health assessments and community health improvement plans, have led to a resurgence of interest in assessment and improvement planning. The study finds that collaborative community assessment activity is positively associated with population size, governance type, and local health department and coalition-led efforts.

## Georgia Southern Assistant Professor implements a community empowerment center

### Georgia Southern Assistant Professor Implements a Community Empowerment Center

MAY 29, 2015



A collaborative study including Dr. Stacy Smallwood, assistant professor of community health at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University, described the process of implementing a [community empowerment center](#) among residents of a low-resource neighborhood. The Community Empowerment Center used a community-engaged approach to build capacity among residents to develop and implement interventions focused on creating a healthier environment. The Center partnered with residents living in a public housing community and adjacent low-income neighborhood and provided support through a mini-grant program. A six-session training program guided community members in mini grant development; 25 individuals attended at least one session. Six grant proposals were submitted; three were awarded \$12,000 each for intervention implementation. Findings offer a model for engaging residents from low-resource settings in intervention development, implementation, and sustainability for community health promotion.

# Zach S. Henderson Library

## Author Susan Orlean is 2014 Fries Lecture speaker

**2014 Fries Lecture: Susan Orlean, Sept. 23rd at the Performing Arts Center**

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2014**

The Zach S. Henderson Library is proud to sponsor the 2014 Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture featuring Susan Orlean, author of *Rin Tin Tin: The Life & The Legend* and *The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty & Obsession*. Orlean is currently working on *The Library Book*, an exploration of the history, power and future of endangered institutions, told through the lens of her quest to solve the 1986 arson that nearly destroyed the Los Angeles Public Library. Please join us at 7:00PM on Tuesday, September 23rd at the Performing Arts Center!

# Learning Commons Interactive Touchscreen Table enables students allows users to collaborate on group work or presentations

## Interactive Touchscreen Table

### Usage Policy

The Learning Commons' Interactive Touchscreen Table is intended for collaboration, group work and/or the rehearsal of presentations. If you have questions about the use of this table, please contact the Learning Commons Information Desk at 912-478-5645 or by email at [learningcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:learningcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

The Interactive Touchscreen Table must be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reservations must be made through the [online form](#); walk-in users will be directed to the online form.

**A MINIMUM of 2 users are required to reserve the Touchscreen Table.** If a single user is occupying the table, s/he will be asked to relinquish the table to a group of 2 or more users.

**Reservations are limited to a maximum of 2 hours per day** (a "day" is defined as the hours between 12:00 am and 11:59 pm, but reservations must begin 1 hour after the library opens and must end 1 hour before the library closes).

Reservations may be made up to **two weeks in advance but you MUST acknowledge the confirmation email within 30 minutes to book your table reservation.**

Users are asked to cancel reservations **at least 1 hour** in advance.

Users are asked to check out the Touchscreen Table remote control and adapters from the Checkout Desk.

The Learning Commons Librarian or a designated person will provide instructions on how to use the equipment if necessary. Instructions will be available at the Learning Commons Information Desk.



Food and drink (in closed containers) are permitted. However, the requestor assumes all responsibility for any damages (facility or equipment) that may occur while using the table.

Please be on time for your reservation. If you do not occupy the Touchscreen Table within 15 minutes after your reservation period begins, the room will become available for another person to request.

The Touchscreen Table cannot be reserved by leaving personal belongings at the table. The library is not, and will not be, responsible for items left at or near the table. Unattended items will be taken to the Lost & Found at the Checkout Desk on the second floor of the Library.



## **Zach S. Henderson Library sponsors International Journeys lectures from Georgia Southern faculty**

**International Journeys at the Library, November 5th at 12:15PM**

**OCTOBER 28, 2014**

The Zach S. Henderson Library is pleased to present the *International Journeys at the Library* brown-bag lecture series. The next event, "Love Works: Adventures in the Dominican Republic," will be presented by Dr. Fred Richter on November 5th at 12:15PM in Room 1300. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. Future journeys will include Ukraine, Morocco, and Turkey. Please contact Ann Hamilton (ahmilton@georgiasouthern.edu) at the Zach S. Henderson Library or Jacek Lubecki (jlubecki@georgiasouthern.edu) at the Center for International Studies for more information.

# Library launches the Digital Commons@Georgia Southern institutional repository

## Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

**Digital Commons@Georgia Southern** is an open access digital collection whose purpose is to collect and disseminate the intellectual and creative output of the University's faculty, staff and students. Contributions come from all over campus and include theses/dissertations, conference proceedings, research publications, brochures, and newsletters.

Besides housing our University's scholarship and creative works, **Digital Commons** also has the capacity to publish online journals and manage conferences. The site also hosts SelectedWorks web pages for our faculty, which are profiles that highlight faculty publications and achievements. All these features of the repository help to expand the visibility and influence of Georgia Southern University to outside academic communities by making publications available on the open web.

## Institutional Repositories

Institutional Repositories (IRs) bring together all of a University's research under one umbrella, with the aim to preserve and provide access to that research. IRs are an excellent vehicle for working papers or copies of published articles and conference papers. Presentations, senior theses, and other works not published elsewhere can also be published in the IR. To learn more about Institutional Repositories, please visit [The Digital Commons Institutional Repository research page](#).

## Digital Collections Team

The Digital Collections Team is a voluntary group that meets on a regular basis to discuss concerns related to digital collections at Georgia Southern University. The team is expected to meet at least once per semester to review any problems or decisions needed related to digital collections whether Digital Commons, ContentDM or another digital collection. Decisions are made based on a vote or general consensus of the group.

Membership is open to anyone on staff at Henderson Library with an interest in Digital Collections. Membership is ongoing, and new members may join at any time. A notice of each meeting along with an agenda is sent out to all faculty and staff of Henderson Library so that any interested party may attend the meeting whether a member or not. A volunteer working with Digital Collections serves as team leader, prepares the agenda, and facilitates the meeting.

## **RESEARCH**

At Georgia Southern, we strongly emphasize and support the robust and innovative scholarly and creative research that is being conducted by faculty and students in all eight academic colleges – research that is helping to transform the profile of this university. Our talented faculty members are driving their disciplines forward as they prepare, guide and train the innovators and job creators of tomorrow. We provide numerous research opportunities that allow our undergraduate and graduate students to work collaboratively, use advanced technology and gain practical hands-on experience in the classroom, in laboratories and in the real world. The quality of research at Georgia Southern University has never been stronger.

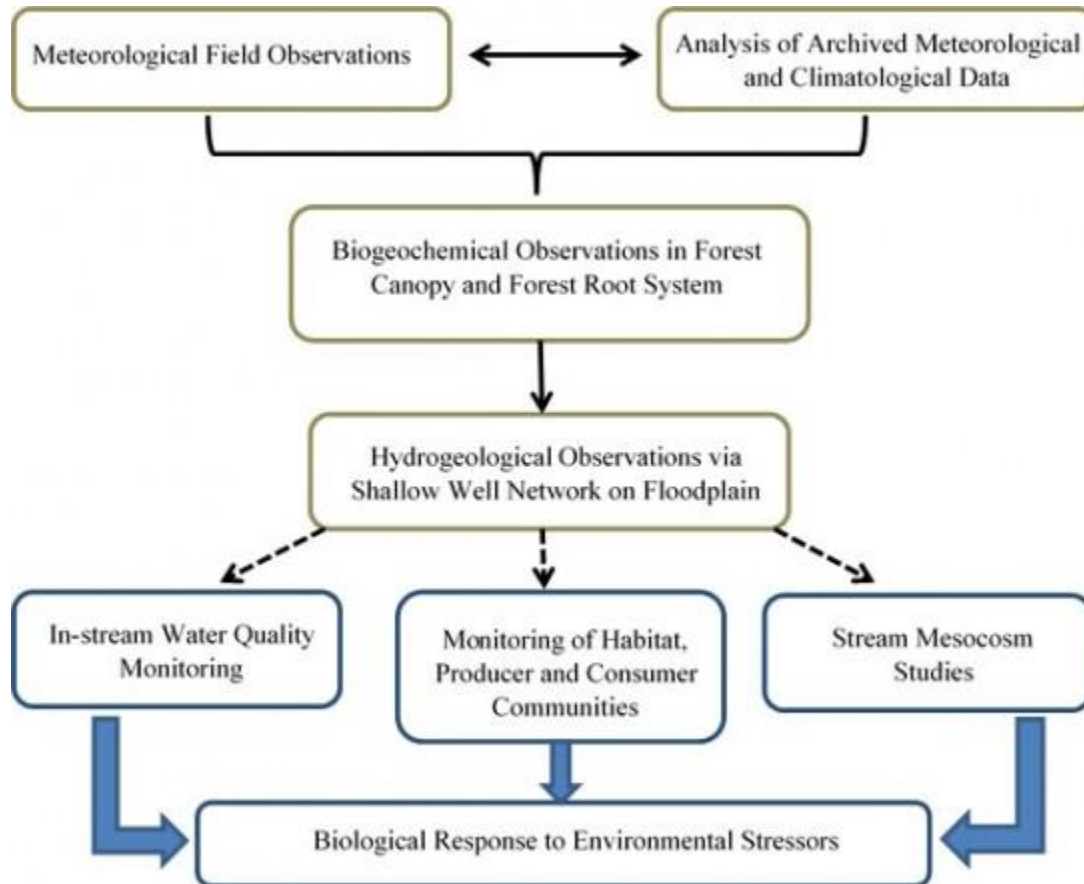
# Georgia Southern researches Ogeechee River Basin

Overview

## Project Title:

Assessment of Hydrological, Biological and Environmental Components of the Lower Ogeechee River Ecosystem

Overview:



The Ogeechee River Project is geared towards investigating ecological processes in this important watershed. The work of our research is meant to provide more than short-term monitoring of biogeochemical components in this river basin, but also to ensure a long-term holistic approach for research conducted on the Ogeechee River. The Ogeechee River Project consists of two research themes carried out by two distinct teams of researchers at Georgia Southern University and partner entities. One group from the Department of Geology & Geography at Georgia Southern is focused on atmospheric and terrestrial processes in the watershed while the other, from the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern in conjunction with the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy (SNSA) is focused on the in-stream processes and biological communities of the Ogeechee River.

This Supplemental Environmental Project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division for violations for the Georgia Water Quality Control Act.

## **Civil Engineering & Construction Management department's awarded funding through Georgia Power's Georgia Research for Academic Partnership in Engineering (GRAPE) project**

**Dr. George Fu wins two Georgia Power GRAPE awards**

**DECEMBER 4, 2014**

Dr. George Fu, Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Dept. of Civil Engineering & Construction Management, has been awarded funding for two proposals through Georgia Power's Georgia Research for Academic Partnership in Engineering (GRAPE) project. Once a year, Georgia Power solicits proposals to address technical needs within GPC and the electric utility industry.

The first proposal awarded is a continuation of a project headed by Dr. Tiehang Wu, Assistant Professor of Microbial Ecology in the Biology Department, with Dr. George Fu as Co-PI. The project is entitled "Microbial conversion of nitrate and selenate to remove nitrogen and selenium from flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater." The other project funded is entitled "Color removal from pulp mill effluent using immobilized coal fly ash (CFA) produced from Georgia coal combustion power plants." Both projects aim to reduce the amount of harmful pollutants in wastewater, in the first case, for wastewater from coal-firing power plants. The second project investigates the possibility of using dumped waste material (coal fly ash) in order to improve the quality of wastewater from paper mills.

# Georgia Southern Research News

## Research News

**APRIL 1, 2015**

Center for Innovation receives first research grant for energy from Georgia's Center of Innovation

The Center for Innovation received its first research grant from Georgia's Center of Innovation (COI) for Energy. COI grants are provided to assist new or existing industries to overcome technical challenges and achieve results in job growth and economic prosperity.

Georgia Southern Working with Statesboro Startup

Faculty from the Department of Chemistry are working in collaboration with Efficien, LLC, a startup company based in Statesboro, to optimize processes and products in a technology that converts reclaimed waste rubber into high performance specialty chemicals. Not only does the technology result in value added products, but it provides reduced impact on waste management systems.

Efficien has invested significant capital in its pilot scale facilities and is a co-funder of the research. Efficien is currently projecting a commercial launch in 2016, bringing additional jobs and capital investment to coastal Georgia.

# Cloud Express Electronic Research Administration system launched

## Cloud Express Tutorials

### Cloud Express Learning Videos

Topic	New Version
1 Initiating a New Proposal	<a href="#">6.0</a>
2 How to Add the Principal Investigator and Key Personnel	<a href="#">6.0</a>
3 How to Certify a Proposal	<a href="#">6.0</a>
4 How to Answer the GS Questionnaire	<a href="#">6.0</a>
5 Submit a Proposal Into Internal Routing	6.0

### Cloud Express Training Guides

Topic	New Version
1 Initiating a New Proposal	<a href="#">6.0</a>
2 How to Add the Principal Investigator and Key Personnel	<a href="#">6.0</a>
3 How to Certify the Proposal	<a href="#">6.0</a>
4 How to Answer the GS Questionnaire	<a href="#">6.0</a>
5 Submitting a Proposal Into Routing	<a href="#">6.0</a>



## Georgia Southern hosts Research Symposium

Welcome

The Research Symposium is a conference style showcase of student and faculty research across multiple disciplines. This event includes speakers, poster and presentation sessions from all academic disciplines.

This marks the 14th year that Georgia Southern University has hosted the Annual Research Symposium. In past years, the Symposium has existed in different forms, mainly showcasing graduate research efforts as coordinated by the College of Graduate Studies. However, in keeping with our mission as a comprehensive university with a strong presence of undergraduate research and a reach that extends far beyond Statesboro, we are inviting students and faculty to participate, as well as participants both from within and external to the University.

### **2015 Jack N. Averitt Award**

The Averitt Award is the highest honor bestowed upon graduate students within the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. Through nominations from each department's graduate program faculty, two semi-finalists will be chosen by the Graduate Program's Director/Coordinator, one from each category (Excellence in Research and Excellence in Instruction). The Averitt Award will consist of two separate \$1,000 cash prizes and a Crystal Eagle trophy. This trophy has been specially designed for the award and clearly denotes the name of the awardee and the classification of the award (Excellence in Research or Excellence in Instruction).



*2015 Averitt Award Winner: Zachary Dietrich – Excellence in Research*



2015 Averitt Award Winner: Joshua Holloway – Excellence in Instruction

## Photo Album

The following link will access the photo album from the [2015 Research Symposium](#).

## 2015 Presentation and Poster Winner

A review committee evaluated each submission for content and relevance. Cash prizes were awarded to students for top poster and top presentation per research topic area. Student poster and presentations were judged and awarded based on abstract/proposal submissions and the presentation of their work on the day of the Symposium. All prize winning presentations & posters were posted in Digital Commons. The attachment of winners are below by each respective department.

### 2015 Research Symposium Presentation and Poster Winners

<b>ARTS &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Christy Smith	2nd Place Poster Christy Smith
<b>BIOSCIENCES &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>COMMERCE &amp; BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>ENGINEERING &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>GENERAL EDUCATION</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>HUMANITIES &amp; SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>LEGAL &amp; POLITICAL SCIENCE</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>LIBERAL ARTS &amp; SCIENCES</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>PHYSICAL &amp; LIFE SCIENCES</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>RECREATION &amp; LEISURE</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith
<b>THEATRE &amp; FILM</b>	
1st Place Presentation Katie Smith	1st Place Poster Katie Smith
2nd Place Presentation Katie Smith	2nd Place Poster Katie Smith

# Herty Partners to launch new consortium for enhancing forest health

## Herty Announces Launch of Consortium for Advanced Wood-to-Energy Solutions

OCTOBER 29, 2014



*Photo courtesy of Herty Advanced Materials*

*Development Center*

*release courtesy of [www.tappi.org](http://www.tappi.org)*

The Georgia Southern University [Herty Advanced Materials Development Center](#), Savannah, GA (Herty), U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment); and the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI (FPL); announced the launch of the Consortium for Advanced Wood-to-Energy Solutions (CAWES). The consortium's goal is to spearhead development of commercially-viable, advanced wood-to-energy products that can be produced from low-value trees and forest residues that can compromise forest health and increase the frequency of wildfires.

The U.S. Endowment and the Forest Service, via its State & Private Forestry division, have “jump started” the consortium with a \$4 million investment designed to identify and fill critical research, development, and deployment needs in launching successful commercial biomass to energy products operations.

Deteriorating forest health conditions—due to overstocked stands, insect and disease killed timber, and extremely limited market options for low-value forest biomass—have led to increasing size, intensity, and acreage of wild land fires that are collectively consuming more than \$3 billion in federal tax dollars annually in suppression costs and billions more in economic and environmental loss, as well as loss of human life.

Large volumes of wood in the form of disease- and insect-killed trees, as well as slash, small diameter trees, and non-commercial species that need to be removed, are of no- or extremely low-commercial value as traditional wood-based products. Without markets for this low-value wood, forest landowners and land managers are left with few viable options to address deteriorating forest health conditions.

Development of commercially-viable and sustainable energy sources from low-value forest biomass is one of the most promising opportunities to develop new markets for wood. CAWES's initial focus will be on a process known as torrefaction. “Our initial work will center on

determining the commercial viability of torrefaction—the ‘roasting’ of wood in a low oxygen environment—to create an energy dense product that can more easily be shipped, stored and used to produce renewable energy,” said Dr. Alexander Koukoulas, President & CEO of Herty.

“We are excited to be one of the founding partners in this important initiative designed to advance the health and vitality of our Nation’s forests while growing family-wage jobs,” said Endowment President & CEO Carlton Owen. “The idea of linking some of the nation’s leading research institutions in a rapid feedback system with product manufacturers is among the more promising aspects of CAWES.”

“CAWES is an open-platform collaborative of institutions in the public and private sectors representing green energy, forest management, research, philanthropy and private industry committed to advancing economically-viable, scalable, distributed wood-to-energy solutions that stimulate forest restoration and rural economic development through research and application of advanced wood-to-energy solutions,” said Dr. Ted Wegner, Assistant Director of FPL.

The founding partners will seek the participation of public and private institutions that share the commitment for addressing the challenges and opportunities of creating sustainable green energy products while advancing forest health and rural forest-rich communities.

**For more information contact:**

**Carlton N. Owen**, President & CEO, [864-233-7646](tel:864-233-7646), <mailto:carlton@usendowment.org>. The **U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities** (the Endowment) is a not-for-profit public charity working collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation’s working forests and forest-reliant communities – [www.usendowment.org](http://www.usendowment.org)

**Ted Wegner**, Ph.D., Assistant Director, [608-231-9434](tel:608-231-9434), <mailto:twegner@fs.fed.us>. The **USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory** (FPL) has for over 100 years, worked with academia, industry, and other government agencies to lead to ground-breaking discoveries with great benefit to the public — [www.fpl.fs.fed.us](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us).

**Alexander Koukoulas**, Ph.D., President & CEO, [912-963-2553](tel:912-963-2553), <mailto:akoukoulas@herty.com> The Georgia Southern University **Herty Advanced Materials Development Center** in Savannah, GA was established in 1938 to honor Dr. Charles H. Herty who spearheaded the use of southern pine forests in paper and wood products manufacturing. Since 2012 it has operated as a division of Georgia Southern as a world-class research and development facility focusing on high performance materials and bio-based products – [www.herty.com](http://www.herty.com)

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.

## **UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

This year has been another year of tremendous growth for Georgia Southern, and we could not have achieved it without the many alumni and friends who have supported us. In a time when many colleges and universities have found themselves with fewer and fewer state and federal resources, Georgia Southern, too, has come to rely on the philanthropic giving of its many alumni and friends to help us reach our goals. This year, our donors have proven themselves committed to the University's vision and mission, and have helped us raise unprecedented funding for Georgia Southern, its students and its programs.

# Georgia Southern University Recognizes Alumni for Accomplishments

## Georgia Southern University Recognizes Alumni for Accomplishments

APRIL 13, 2015



*Michael R. Sanders, center, stands with Vice President of University Advancement Salinda Arthur and University President Brooks Keel after being named the recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award at the 2015 Alumni Association Awards Dinner.*

Georgia Southern University presented its 2015 Alumni Awards at the annual Alumni Association Awards Dinner held this past Saturday at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center.

The following alumni were recognized for outstanding achievements in their respective fields:

- **Susan E. Finger, Department of Biology Alumni Award.** Finger, who received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Georgia Southern in 1973, currently serves as the program coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) at the Columbia Environmental Research Center in Columbia, Mo. She also works as the science advisor and USGS liaison for the Department of Interior's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program. The

author of more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and reports, she is a fisheries ecologist and aquatic toxicologist who has studied the effects of fire-fighting chemicals on aquatic and terrestrial resources. Finger also holds a Master of Science degree in fisheries and wildlife from Oregon State University.

- **Cedric D. Henry, College of Business Administration Alumni Award.** Henry earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in business management in 1984, and is the co-founder and COO of Millennium Corporation, a government contractor, in Haymarket, Va. He retired from the United States Navy after 20 years of service, where he completed two tours of duty in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In 2014, he was recognized by the White House as a “Champion of Change” and is a five-time Inc. 5000 honoree.
- **Brad Trower, College of Health and Human Sciences Alumni Award.** Trower received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Georgia Southern University: a Bachelor of Science degree in health science in 1993, and a Master of Science degree in exercise science in 1996. He is currently vice president of business development and strategic planning at St. Joseph’s/Candler in Statesboro, and also worked there as an athletic trainer, the director of sports medicine, and as executive for orthopedics. In addition to his degrees from Georgia Southern, he also earned an MBA from the University of South Carolina.
- **Pratt Farmer, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award.** Farmer, a 1976 graduate of Georgia Southern with a Bachelor of Science degree in communications, is director of marketing for Cooper Carry in Marietta, Ga. He is an Accredited Public Relations Practitioner, a Certified Sales Professional and is affiliated with a number of professional organizations, including the Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia Agape, the Marietta/Cobb Fine Arts Association and the Boy Scouts of America.
- **Joseph Barrow, Ed.D., College of Education Alumni Award.** Barrow earned his Bachelor of Science in health and physical education in 1980 and a Master of Education degree and certification in administration and supervision in 1987, all from Georgia Southern. He received his Doctor of Education degree from Nova University. He currently serves as the superintendent of the Fayette County Board of Education in Peachtree City, Ga. Prior to that, he was the superintendent of the Ware County Board of Education. Barrow serves on state and national nonprofit boards and advisory committees impacting education and health care.
- **Robin Rich, Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology Alumni Award.** Rich received two degrees from Georgia Southern: a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering technology in 1982, and an MBA in 1992. He is a systems engineer for Automation Systems and Controls, Inc., in Statesboro, Ga. Previously, he worked in engineering at Great Dane Trailers and Brooks Instrument Division of Emerson Electric.



- **David Woodrum, M.D., Ph.D., College of Science and Mathematics Alumni**

**Award.** Woodrum earned an undergraduate degree in physics from Georgia Southern in 1994 before receiving his M.D. and Ph.D. from the Medical College of Georgia in 2001. He is assistant professor of radiology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minn., where he also completed his internal medicine internship, his radiology residency and an interventional radiology fellowship. Woodrum has published more than 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has been awarded more than 20 grant-funded research projects.

- **Raimi Ewetola, M.D., Dr.P.H., Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Alumni Award.** Prior to receiving his Doctor of Public Health degree from Georgia Southern in 2013, Ewetola earned a Master of Public Health degree from Armstrong State University and an M.D. from the University of Lome. He currently serves as a U.S. diplomat and deputy director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Global HIV/AIDS Division in Savannah, Ga. He is an adjunct faculty member of both Georgia Southern and Armstrong State University, a member of the Georgia Department of Public Health, and a consultant for the World Health Organization.

- **Michael R. Sanders, Alumnus of the Year Award.** Augusta native Mike Sanders, who received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing in 1981 from Georgia Southern, is a three-decade veteran of the financial services industry. He began his career with Morgan Stanley where he served for more than 25 years, rising to senior vice president for investments. He currently works as senior vice president for wealth management with UBS Financial Services. Sanders is a member of the Georgia Southern Foundation Board of Trustees, is a former University Alumni Association member and is a charter member of the Foundation's 1906 Society. He and his family have endowed two scholarships at the University — one for students in the University Honors Program and one for athletics.

“Georgia Southern is pleased to honor alumni who have distinguished themselves as outstanding professional and personal achievers in their fields and who have loyally dedicated their time and service to their alma mater,” said Brooks Keel, president, Georgia Southern University. “Their accomplishments reflect positively not only on their own abilities, but also on Georgia Southern University.”

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. [www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

## Recreation facility at Georgia Southern named for former University President and First Lady

Recreation Facility at Georgia Southern named for former University President and First Lady

MAY 7, 2015



Georgia Southern University's state-of-the-art Recreation Activity Center (RAC) will be named after former University president and first lady, Bruce and Kathryn Grube.

Dr. Grube was Georgia Southern University's 11th president and served from 1999 to 2009. During his tenure, the University became a Carnegie Doctoral/Research university, experienced record-breaking enrollment and significant improvement in academic quality, as well as unprecedented growth in facilities and other resources. President Grube worked to build strong relationships with local, state and national leaders bringing collaboration and progress to the University and the surrounding communities. Kathryn Grube devoted herself to Georgia Southern and the community, contributing countless hours of volunteer work for the University and Statesboro.

The RAC is a cutting-edge recreation center and icon of campus life for many Georgia Southern students. Originally opened in 1998, the facility was expanded in 2006 to its present size of

215,000 square feet. With more than 5,500 visitors each day, the Center offers fitness equipment, intramural sports, wellness services and meeting spaces.

The naming of the Bruce and Kathryn Grube Recreation Activity Center, approved by University System of Georgia Board of Regents, follows the landmark \$1 million gift from the former University president and first lady. This gift will be earmarked for three critical areas: leadership scholarships, Honors program scholarships and recreation programming for students.

“Scholarships, recreation and wellness are significant elements of a successful educational experience at Georgia Southern,” said Dr. Grube. “Kathryn and I understand these student needs from our years of serving the University. We are grateful that we are able to leave a legacy to Georgia Southern University students. We certainly owe much to the many students who touched our lives over the years.”

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.



## 41st Annual 'A Day for Southern' breaks record to raise more than \$2.2 million

41st Annual 'A Day for Southern' Breaks Record to Raise More Than \$2.2 million

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014



*This year's A Day For Southern raised more than \$2.2 million. From l to r: Christopher Pugh, assistant director of the Multicultural Student Center, Tom Kleinlein, director of athletics, Barbara Christmas Golden, A Day for Southern community chair, President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., Salinda Arthur, vice president of Advancement, Gloria Goosby, director of Annual Giving and Chris Caplinger, director of First-Year Experience*

[Georgia Southern University's](#) 41st annual *A Day for Southern* fundraising campaign has raised \$2,221,424 breaking last year's record of \$2.1 million. This marks the second straight year the campaign has raised more than \$2 million.

Statesboro and Bulloch County businesses along with Georgia Southern faculty, staff, students, retirees and alumni donated to the campaign as a way to show their support for the University. The gifts received support University programs not funded through state dollars, allow students

to achieve academic excellence and support outreach centers such as the [Center for Wildlife Education](#), the [Georgia Southern Museum](#), the [Garden of the Coastal Plain](#) and state-of-the-art facilities and programs that attract and support research and scholarships.

Barbara Christmas Golden, former principal and chief executive officer of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), served as the campaign's community chair; Christopher Pugh, assistant director of the Multicultural Student Center, served as the staff co-chair and Chris Caplinger, director of First-Year Experience, served as the faculty co-chair. More than 100 volunteers assisted with the campaign.

*A Day for Southern* began more than four decades ago and recorded \$67,000 in its first year.

## Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art announces \$500,000 Gift from Gov. Carl Sanders Estate

Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art Announces \$500,000 Gift from Gov. Carl Sanders Estate

JANUARY 9, 2015



The Georgia Southern University [Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art](#) has received a \$500,000 gift from the estate of former Georgia Gov. Carl E. Sanders. The gift will support academic initiatives for visual art and design students, exhibitions, merit-based projects, competitions and innovative curriculum development.

“This gift shows the unrelenting support that Gov. Sanders had for education and the Arts at Georgia Southern. We are honored to be able to continue exemplifying academic excellence in the Arts and we are extremely thankful for his dedication and service to the state of Georgia,” said University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D.

Sanders, known for making education the first priority of his administration, directed nearly 60 cents of every tax dollar into education as governor. His administration added 10,000 new teachers, established a Master Plan for Education, and set minimum standards for public

schools. He also began the Governor's Honors program for exceptional students, developed an extensive educational television network, encouraged school consolidation and greatly expanded vocational training.

Gov. Sanders' wife, Betty Foy Sanders, has fostered her love of learning for art students for more than four decades at Georgia Southern. A native of Statesboro, Betty Sanders' commitment to her alma mater has been instrumental in the advancement of the Arts and art education at the University.

"Betty and Gov. Sanders have previously supported the Department by establishing separate endowments for visiting artists, student travel and scholarships," said Robert Farber, department chair. "Betty also donated the [Georgia Artists Collection](#) to the Department. The collection has grown to more than 40 artworks making it an invaluable resource to the state."

### **About the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art**

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) at Georgia Southern University is committed to offering quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs that prepare students to become professional artists, designers, art historians and industry executives.

Offering a comprehensive curriculum encompassing the practical, theoretical and historical aspects of the visual arts, the BFSDoArt is recognized as an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) and is currently pending accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications (ACCGC).

# Alumni Association names the Inaugural “40 Under 40” Class of 2014

## Alumni Association Names the Inaugural “40 Under 40” Class of 2014

AUGUST 18, 2014



The Georgia Southern University Alumni Association has named the inaugural “40 Under 40” [Class of 2014](#).

Designated by the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association, the honor recognizes young alumni that are leading the way in business, leadership, community, educational and philanthropic endeavors.

“Georgia Southern has some outstanding graduates and our young alumni are no exception,” said Wendell Tompkins, senior director of Alumni Relations and

Annual Giving. “We are excited to recognize the ‘40 Under 40’ group for not only their leadership in their personal and professional lives, but for their True Blue spirit. This group represents the very best of Georgia Southern alumni.”

Chosen by a selection committee based on their professional expertise and achievements, as well as dedication to charitable and community initiatives, “40 Under 40” honorees represent the excellence of the University’s young alumni, and demonstrate the positive contributions and remarkable achievements for which Georgia Southern graduates are known.

The “40 Under 40” Class of 2014 will be featured in the fall edition of *Georgia Southern* magazine and on the Alumni Association website, in addition the following recognition:

**Thursday, Sept. 25** – Honorees will be publicly announced over the loud speaker during the Georgia Southern vs. Appalachian State football game at Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

**Friday, Sept. 26** – A special awards luncheon with President Brooks Keel will be held at Noon in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center Ballroom.



**Friday, Sept. 26** – Honorees will be special guests at the 1906 Society Gala, an annual invitation-only event hosted by Donor Relations.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.georgiasouthern.edu/40under40](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/40under40).

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Information Technology Services works continually to stay abreast of new technologies in support of pedagogical, research and administrative endeavors across the University campus. Information technology lies at the heart of nearly all functions such as safety, scholarship, research and myriad others on our large, diverse campus. During the 2014-2015 academic year IT Services continued to introduce new, and improve existing, technology resources on which the University community depends.

## Georgia Southern Students receive Emmy award

### Georgia Southern Students Receive Emmy® Award

JUNE 9, 2015



*Students associated with the award from left to right: Evan Lebish, Katy Burrell, James Braswell, Allen Lincoln and Christopher Dunn. Braswell and Lincoln were the producers of the winning video.*

Georgia Southern University's Multimedia Development Center (MDC) won a Student Emmy® Award for its ["Wounded Eagle"](#) video production at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast region awards ceremony on June 6 in Atlanta. The "Wounded Eagle" video was recorded, produced and edited by MDC students Allen Lincoln and James Braswell in cooperation with Georgia Southern University Marketing and Communications.

"We are very proud of the accomplishments of our students," said Art Berger, director of the MDC. "The MDC draws students from many disciplines from all over the university: communication arts, psychology and information technology, just to name a few. The

Emmy® Award competition provides our students with an opportunity to compete for one of the top industry awards and carry that nomination with them throughout their career.”

Projects like “Wounded Eagle” give students at the MDC a great opportunity to learn and apply their craft. “It is an honor to be nominated for a Student Emmy® Award. I have to thank the military for teaching me the basics of videography, but Georgia Southern and Mr. Berger have given me the opportunity to better enhance my editing and videography techniques,” said Braswell.

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, NATAS, is a professional organization for individuals in the television and broadcasting industry. NATAS is the standard-bearer for excellence in the television broadcasting industry and the gatekeepers of the prestigious regional Emmy® Awards. The Southeast Chapter represents the most experienced and talented television professionals from all disciplines of the industry and from each of our television markets (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Asheville, N.C.).

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: [www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

# **Public Safety Command Center for Critical Incident Management**

## **Public Safety Command Center for Critical Incident Management**

**JUNE 29, 2015**

During the 2014/2015 year, IT Services introduced a state of the art command and control center for incident management to allow University officials to monitor emergency situations on campus to provide sustained operations during critical incidents on campus. The center is located in the University Public Safety facility on Forest Drive. It provides video conferencing and monitoring of critical information. In addition, the system integrates the Georgia Southern network of security cameras, which allows University officials to monitor many locations and situations in real time.

# **Video Production Network and Studio**

## **Video Production Network and Studio**

**JUNE 29, 2015**

Information Technology Services and the Multimedia Development Center (MDC) opened a state of the art fiber-optic network and control studio to provide operational support for live broadcasts of sporting events to ESPN and streaming of musical arts performances by Georgia Southern students, among many other applications. Georgia Southern's capabilities rival that of Southeast Conference schools. The Georgia Soccer Final Four, hosted by Statesboro and Georgia Southern University, used these capabilities to promote the event literally across the globe. A world-wide audience of more than 10,000 people watched the tournament.

# **A Virtual University**

## **A Virtual University**

**JUNE 29, 2015**

Information Technology Services launched new capabilities extending the reach of Georgia Southern University to students, faculty and researchers throughout the world. The redesigned MyGeorgiaSouthern web portal introduced new virtual services allowing faculty and students to access popular educational and research software titles, educational materials, free textbooks, smart phone apps and other resources via the Internet. Fully online and traditional students alike may take advantage of the rich online resources.

# **Computational Research capabilities introduced**

## **Computational Research Capabilities Introduced**

**JUNE 29, 2015**

The University introduced new high-performance computing resources and expanded data storage capabilities to support faculty and student research in many different disciplines. The new capabilities will support a wide variety of computational research projects in fluid dynamics, chemistry, geospatial analysis, astrophysics, biostatistics and predictive epidemiology. The high-performance computing resources are designed to provide not only for current research needs but also to increase in scale for future research requirements.



## **DIVISION OF BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

As the University grows, so does the work of the Division of Business and Finance. Georgia Southern's growth demands the department work even harder to manage infrastructure, public safety, human resources and budgetary support for faculty, staff and students. This year, the Division saw an increase in facility development, faculty and staff support, and a focus on the safety and well-being of our students.

## Office of Public Safety

# Georgia Southern receives \$8,000 Grant from Governor's Office

## University Announces \$8,000 Grant from Governor's Office

JANUARY 13, 2015



*Nicole Withers, administrative coordinator for the Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Programs, prepares a non-alcoholic 'mocktail' for students during National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAW), held in Oct. The Office recently received an \$8,000 grant to participate in the Georgia Young Adult Program. The grant will support the 'Safe Rides Safe Lives' campaign, which discourages impaired driving.*

Georgia Southern University has received an \$8,000 grant through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to participate in the [Georgia Young Adult Program](#). The program educates students about the dangers of alcohol abuse, underage drinking and impaired driving.

"The Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant is a great thing for the University because it helps supplement the educational programming that the Alcohol and Other Drugs Office already does," said Kerry Greenstein, associate dean of students. "This extra money allows us to reach more students with information about safe drinking behaviors, and specifically supports our efforts to prevent drunk driving."

The grant will allow the [Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs Programs](#) to promote the "[Safe Rides Saves Lives](#)" campaign, which discourages driving while under the influence of alcohol. The office coordinates impaired driving prevention programs, which include Fatal Vision Goggles and DUI simulators.

"We are excited about the receipt of this grant because it allows us to continue educating students on the dangers of distracted and impaired driving," said Nicole Withers, administrative coordinator for the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs Programs at Georgia Southern. "We will be able to continue our efforts to keep the student body, community and other drivers safe as we encourage them to steer away from destructive decisions."

The mission of the Georgia Young Adult Program is to promote education and awareness to young adults about highway safety issues, such as but not limited to underage drinking,

impaired driving, destructive decisions and other high-risk behaviors in order to decrease crashes, injuries, and fatalities in young adults and passengers.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety coordinates with colleges and universities throughout Georgia to implement the program, which has been successful using strategies such as peer education, providing educational speakers to schools and encouraging schools to develop creative, innovative techniques to reduce young adult crashes, injuries and fatalities in their communities.

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# Georgia Southern University receives “Crime Free” housing designation

## Georgia Southern University Receives “Crime Free” Housing Designation

APRIL 15, 2015

Georgia Southern University received a crime free housing designation from the International Crime Free Association Inc. in March after officers completed training associated with the designation, and because new initiatives were implemented to create safer environments in on-campus residence halls.

The safety initiatives were implemented by University Housing and Facilities Services with support provided by President Brooks A. Keel and the Office of Public Safety. Officers Charles Bowen and Danny Garrigus worked directly with campus departments to ensure the campus residential facilities met the standards set forth by the International Crime Free Association Inc.

“For students who choose to live on campus, this designation means they’ll live in facilities that have enhanced physical security that off-campus housing may not offer,” said Bowen.

To receive the new designation, residence halls were required to meet certain design standards. Door frames, door peep holes and lighting were among the safety points that were addressed during the year it took to ensure that all the standards were in place. University housing “meets or exceeds” the standards set forth, including the use of security camera systems used by the Office of Public Safety with the help of Network Telecommunications.

“While this designation is reassuring of our campus’ overall safety, it unfortunately does not mean crime will be completely eliminated,” a Public Safety spokesperson said, “but it does mean enhanced safety for those living in on-campus housing. Each student is reminded to make sure they practice safety guidelines at all times.”

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# Georgia Southern Police join Statesboro-Bulloch County Crime Suppression Team

## GSU Police join Statesboro-Bulloch County Crime Suppression Team

**AUGUST 1, 2014**

Georgia Southern recently joined a special task force to fight crime in the area, blurring the line between the campus and the community.

In January 2014, the Statesboro Police Department and Bulloch County Sheriff's office merged two crime suppression units to form a multi-jurisdictional Statesboro-Bulloch Crime Suppression Team. In an unprecedented move, Georgia Southern University Police joined this partnership this past July, and assigned two officers to serve on the force. To date, the Crime Suppression Team has been extremely successful in the apprehension of violent felons, burglary, and illicit drug violators.

"If you intend to commit crime in Bulloch County, this team is going to be after you," said GSU President Dr. Brooks Keel. "It does blur the lines between the university campus, the Statesboro city limits and the rest of Bulloch County."

Statesboro Director of Public Safety Wendell Turner says the team is already having an effect on crime in the area. In 2014, all robberies were down by 35% from the previous year, burglaries decreased by 33%, sexual assaults – including rape – were down 18%, motor vehicle theft down 49%, and all theft down cumulatively by 17%.

"Additional police officers on the streets, newly developed partnerships, including the Statesboro-Bulloch County Crime Suppression Team, organizational improvements, and increased community programs and awareness have made a tremendous difference that is reflected in these statistics," Turner said.

*Some reporting in this article originally appeared on [WTOC](#).*

## *Human Resources*

# Georgia Southern campus goes Tobacco-Free

## **Our House is Tobacco-Free**

As of August 1st, 2014, Georgia Southern University is a tobacco-free campus, in compliance with the [Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia's policy 9.1.7](#).

## **Why go tobacco-free?**

The purpose of the policy is to create a health-supporting community for everyone, tobacco-users and non-users alike. The new policy also supports the right of all people on university system campuses to breathe smoke-free air. The simple reason for our policy is respect for each other and the environment. We hope that smokers who choose to continue smoking will respect our smoke-free environment out of concern for their fellow campus community members.

For more information visit [USG Tobacco-Free](#).

## **What are considered "Tobacco Products"?**

"Tobacco Products" are defined as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, clove cigarettes and any other smoking devices that use tobacco such as hookahs or simulate the use of tobacco such as electronic cigarettes.

## **What areas of campus are prohibited?**

The use of tobacco is prohibited in any area of the campus. This includes the following:

All Georgia Southern Campus Buildings and Grounds

All Georgia Southern Parking Lots

Administration Building

All Georgia Southern Dorms and Apartments

Campus Pedestrium

Campus Bus Stops

Allen E. Paulson Stadium and Grounds

Georgia Southern Golf Course

Coastal Georgia Center – Savannah

Herty – Savannah

If you have any questions or comments regarding the new Tobacco-Free campus initiative, please send email to [tobaccofree@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:tobaccofree@georgiasouthern.edu).

## Georgia Southern honors 59 faculty and staff at retirees recognition ceremony

Georgia Southern Honors 59 Faculty and Staff at Retirees Recognition Ceremony

MARCH 30, 2015



Georgia Southern recognized 59 faculty and staff members at the annual Retirees Recognition Ceremony, held on Tuesday, March 24, at 10:30 a.m. at the Builders of the University Terrace.

The event recognizes those who have either retired since the last ceremony or announced their retirement this year. University administration including University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. were on hand to celebrate the service of these faculty and staff.

“Georgia Southern would not be the university we are without you,” Keel said to the retirees in attendance. “There is no way we can thank you enough for your service.”





Among this year's retirees were three faculty and staff, who all served 33 years at Georgia Southern, arriving on campus in 1982. They are: Dr. Sue Moore, professor of anthropology; Diana McDaniel, Bursar's Office; and Lt. Floyd Bragg, Public Safety.

When asked what had changed the most since their arrival, both Moore and McDaniel noted the rise of the student population and campus, which McDaniel said has "grown by leaps and bounds." When asked what they enjoyed most about working at Georgia

Southern, both said it was the people — colleagues and students — that made the job enjoyable.

"It was nice to walk across the campus and have folks say, 'Hi' — both students and employees," said McDaniel. "I always waved to employees and said, 'Hi' when they drove by."

In retirement, McDaniel said she plans to visit her grandchildren often and continue her volunteer work with the Girl Scouts. For Moore, retirement will offer her more time to write and continue her studies with the Camp Lawton site and another archaeological dig in South Carolina.

The retirees honored at the 2015 ceremony were:

Dr. Donald Armel

Dr. James Bradford

Mrs. Kaye Brannen

Mrs. Louise Campbell

Dr. Robert Cook

Dr. John R. Diebolt

Mr. Charles J. DiPolito

Mrs. Glenese Doyle

*Lt. Floyd Bragg, Public Safety, 33 years*



*Dr. Sue Moore, professor of anthropology,  
33 years*

Mrs. Dollie G. Dyches

Mr. Paul Ferguson  
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Freeman  
Ms. Cynthia J. Frost  
Dr. Lorraine Gilpin\*  
Ms. Cynthia Glover  
Mr. Douglas Gray  
Dr. Larry Griffin  
Dr. Peggy G. Hargis  
Mr. Gary Harron  
Ms. Ruthie M. Hill  
Ms. A. Marie Hooks  
Mr. George Horn  
Ms. Earlene S. Howard  
Mr. Michael K. Jacobs  
Dr. Stephen Jenkins  
Ms. Diana Kinney  
Dr. Thomas Klein\*  
Mr. John F. Kohn  
Dr. Susie M. Lanier  
Dr. John Leaptrott  
Dr. Mary Marwitz  
Mr. Henry G. Mays  
Ms. Patricia E. McCracken  
Dr. Michael McDonald  
Ms. Rita Mills

Ms. D. Renee Murray  
Mr. Kent D. Murray \*  
Ms. Betty M. Nelson  
Mr. Eric Nelson  
Mrs. Jean V. Nessmith  
Mrs. Pam Powell  
Mrs. Carolyn Price  
Mrs. Ellen Seel  
Mr. Robert F. Seel  
Dr. Robert Shanafelt\*  
Mr. Charles A. Skewis  
Ms. Susan A. Smith  
Mr. Danny Stewart\*  
Ms. Lavada Sykora\*  
Ms. Charlene Todd  
Dr. Sharon K. Tracy  
Mr. Johnny W. Tremble  
Mr. Pennye Tremble  
Mrs. Pat Walker\*  
Ms. Patricia M. Walton  
Mrs. Janice West  
Mrs. Charlotte Woody  
  
*\*In Memoriam*

## *Facilities*

### **Construction to begin on new University warehouse**

#### **Construction to Begin on New University Warehouse**

**JUNE 1, 2015**

Georgia Southern is building a new \$8 million University Warehouse to handle its storage needs.

The Central Warehouse will be a 58,000 square-foot pre-engineered metal building with a loading dock on the rear of building and an office building attached to the front. The warehouse will house Central Receiving, Surplus, ETS, Communication Arts storage, Museum storage, Records and Archives, Procurement and an Archaeology Repository. The project is presently in the design stage with an expected construction start of August 6, 2015 and an expected completion date of March 2016.

The new warehouse will be the first building on Georgia Southern's south campus.

## Georgia Southern Golf Course names Best New Course by Golf Digest

Georgia Southern University Golf Course named 'Best New Course' by Golf Digest

NOVEMBER 14, 2014



Georgia Southern University is no stranger to national accolades and recently the University garnered one more when it was named to *Golf Digest's* prestigious [2014 Best New Golf Courses](#) list.

"This represents a number of things that speak loudly and boldly about what Georgia Southern is and where we are going," said University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. "We are a university on the move and are always looking for ways to better serve our students and community. This is one more way in which we can tell the world that we are different, and we are special."

Since 1983, *Golf Digest* has been the leader in golf course rankings. In the November issue, the Georgia Southern Golf Course ranks among major championship courses such as Trump National Golf Club in Doral, Florida, and Sewailo Golf Club in Tucson, Arizona.

Ron Whitten, editor of *Golf Digest*, said, “The Georgia Southern Golf Course is beautiful, playable and affordable. Using the old pine-lined corridors, the new course has instant maturity, with holes six through eight wrapping around a large glistening lake that is a particular highlight.”

“We are excited to offer Georgia Southern and the surrounding community a course recognized so prominently by *Golf Digest*,” said Marten Olsson, director of golf. “The course will only improve with time thanks in large part to the efforts of course superintendent, Patrick Reinhart.”

“This is an opportunity for us to provide an experience to our students and community members and expose them to the game of golf,” said Gene Sherry, executive director of Campus Recreation & Intramurals. “The course is a testament to the design of Bob Walker. It is both challenging and playable for all skill levels.”

The facility also has a driving range, practice putting and chipping greens, along with a renovated 8,000 square foot clubhouse, which includes a pro shop, snack bar and meeting space.

“This is what a student-centered university is all about,” said Teresa Thompson, Ph.D., vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. “We have very bright students who have high expectations inside and outside the classroom.”

Find out about greens fees, schedule tee times and learn more about the course by visiting [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/golf](https://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/golf) or by calling 912-GSU-GOLF.

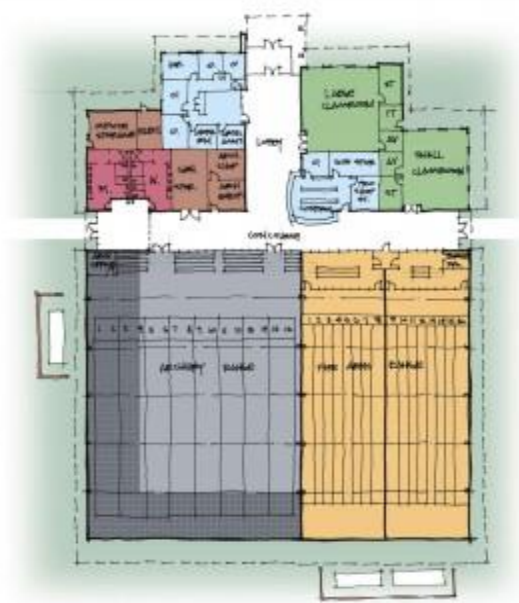
# Georgia Southern breaks ground on Shooting Sports Education Center

## Georgia Southern Breaks Ground for Shooting Sports Education Center

NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Georgia Southern University has started work to build a world-class, state-of-the-art \$5.8 million Shooting Sports Education Center on campus. Ground was broken Thursday morning for the 30,000 square foot facility that will be open to students and the public. The facility will public indoor archery and firing ranges and an outdoor archery range.

The mission of the facility is to educate hunters and archers to be responsible shooting sports enthusiasts and promote safe firearms and bow handling. "This is the epitome of a public, private and government partnership," said University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. "It's a relationship where we have all come together to make something unique happen. The Center will allow Georgia Southern to promote shooting safety, hunter safety and shooting education."



The Shooting Sports Education Center is a partnership between Georgia Southern and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR secured a \$3.5 million grant to go along with private donations made to the University and support from the Easton Foundation and the City of Statesboro. "We want to thank Georgia Southern for grabbing on to this concept that we came up with and recognizing the value added components of what a world class shooting facility would add for the students and people in the surrounding community," said Mark Whitney, assistant director of the Wildlife Resources Division with the DNR.

"This is the beginning of an exciting adventure," said Teresa Thompson, Ph.D., vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. "Every once and a while, a project comes along that has exciting opportunities for the future. This shooting center can be a catalyst for developing students who will one day represent our nation as Olympic shooting sports champions." The Center is expected to boost the local economy by bringing thousands of visitors to campus and Statesboro each year for training, tournaments and competitions. It will also be the home of the Georgia Southern women's rifle team.

The Center will be the only facility of its kind east of the Mississippi River and will provide learning and recreational experiences for many students and introduce them to the world of shooting sports." The comprehensiveness and versatility of this facility will allow for multiple disciplines of shooting sports to come together and serve as a hub for education, training, competition and recreation," said Gene Sherry, executive director of Campus Recreation and Intramurals (CRI).



Over the next 12 to 18 months, Ajax Construction will build the facility at the corner of Old Register Road and Veterans Memorial Parkway. "Ajax is excited to have a part in building this significant facility, with its regional draw for NCAA competitions and national appeal as an educational showcase for the shooting sports," said Ajax President Bill Byrne.

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more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education.

Visit: [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Georgia Southern University is devoted to meeting the needs of students by providing outstanding environments for academics, teaching, scholarship and service. We enrolled more than 20,500 undergraduate and graduate students from 48 states and 88 countries during the 2014-15 academic year. The average SAT score of our freshman class was 1113, and our campus is more diverse and welcoming than ever, with increasing numbers of transfer, military veterans and non-traditional students. The Division of Students Affairs and Enrollment Management is dedicated to providing high quality programs that actively engage students. This past year, there were extensive opportunities for students to exchange ideas, opinions, and engage in intellectual discussions across campus and elsewhere. Here are a just few examples of those experiences.



## Georgia Southern Welcomes Pulitzer-prize Winning Columnist to Campus

FEBRUARY 16, 2015



[First-Year Experience \(FYE\)](#) at Georgia Southern University will present a lecture by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof on Monday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the [University's Performing Arts Center](#). The event is free and open to the public.

Kristof, a columnist for *The New York Times*, will discuss his latest book authored with Sheryl WuDunn, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*.

"Kristof brings a fresh perspective to making a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged in the United States and globally," said Dr. Chris Caplinger, director of FYE. "Kristof speaks frankly about the limitations of some forms of charity. Ultimately, though, he leaves us with a powerful call to action about how to engage effectively."

Though several Georgia Southern entities have partnered to bring Kristof to campus, Caplinger said that the [Student Abolitionist Movement \(SAM\)](#) was integral to coordinating the event. SAM President Claire Torrell initially suggested the idea of bringing Kristof to campus and will introduce him at the Georgia Southern presentation.

"For the past several years, students involved in SAM on campus have educated their peers about human trafficking, an issue that Kristof and WuDunn first addressed in an earlier book, *Half the Sky*," Caplinger said.

Students interested in meeting and having dinner with Kristof on the day of the event are invited to submit a question for the speaker. Participation is also encouraged on social media, using #GSUKristof.

In addition to SAM and FYE, the Feb. 23 event is sponsored by Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Campus Life Enrichment Committee, Center for the Study of International Schooling, Department of Communication Arts, Department of Foreign Languages, Center for International Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Political Science, University Honors Program, Department of Writing and Linguistics, Department of History, Office of Student Media, Department of

Sociology and Anthropology, College of Business Administration, College of Health and Human Sciences, and College of Science and Mathematics.

Additional information is available by emailing Chris Caplinger at [caplinca@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:caplinca@georgiasouthern.edu).

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Michelle Norris to speak at MLK celebration

**DECEMBER 3, 2014**



*Michelle Norris will speak at the MLK Celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 847 Plant Drive.*

Michele Norris, the first African-American female host for NPR, will be the featured speaker at Georgia Southern University's 2015 MLK Celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 847 Plant Drive. 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.

Norris, an award-winning journalist and one of the most recognized and trusted voices in American journalism, was the host of NPR's longest-running national program, All Things Considered until 2012. Her journalism has garnered a Peabody Award, duPont Award, an Overseas Press Club Award, and the National Association of Black Journalists named her the 2009 Journalist of the Year.

"We chose Michele Norris because of her reputation, professional accomplishments, and because of her initiative that she started in 2010, the Race Card Project, which encouraged a wider conversation about race among her readers and listeners," said Dorsey Baldwin, director of the Multicultural Student Center. "We've even started the Race Card Project on our campus to get honest and open feedback from our students, faculty and staff."

Norris is the author of *The Grace of Silence: A Memoir*, where she focuses on how America talks about race in the wake of the Obama presidential election, and explores her own family's racial legacy.

"We're excited for her to discuss her book, *The Grace of Silence: A Memoir*, which explores her family's history; and we also hope that she will discuss how far we've come with the conversation on race and where do we go from here," says Baldwin.

This event is free and open to the public. Tickets for the event will not be distributed; however, seating is limited.

## Georgia Southern student takes on the House of Representatives

**MARCH 6, 2015**

From the Bahamas to Georgia and Now to the White House



Georgia Southern sophomore Stanley Miller is currently serving as an intern for U.S. Congressman David Scott, D-Atlanta, until May.

A transfer from the College of The Bahamas, Miller could not be happier with his choice to become part of the Eagle Nation. He knew he wanted to be involved with a University that has a credible communications program, and he realized early on that Georgia Southern was without a doubt the university for him. "I also chose [Georgia Southern] because of its location," Miller said. "Even though it is located in a small town, it is still close to major cities like Atlanta with great journalism and public relations career opportunities."

The public relations student began his internship in January of this year. He has been able to apply both his passion for public relations and journalism to his experiences so far.

"One of the things I love about Public Relations and Journalism is that they are very diverse fields," Miller said. "I can use my skills in those areas in government and the corporate world."

As a PR major, it is vital that I am able to communicate effectively. My internship has helped me to enhance my communication skills and network with great people.”

Miller has had the opportunity to interact with Congressmen Kevin Yoder, R-Kan., and Rick Allen, R-Ga., as well as Congresswomen Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., Alma Adams, D-N.C., and Mia Love, R-Utah. He has also met Congressman and Civil Rights legend John Lewis, D-Ga., among other prestigious members of the House of Representatives, Senate and White House.

“I have made life-long friends here and would not trade this experience for anything,” Miller said. “I am more than grateful for this opportunity.”

Miller is most looking forward to continuing on in his internship and eventually becoming an executive for a PR firm and an international journalist in print or broadcast.

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## University Hosts GEMA/HS Strategic Planning Workshop

**APRIL 30, 2015**

Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA/HS) selected Georgia Southern University as the site of a strategic planning workshop for its leadership team in April.

Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management staffers Drs. Jayne Perkins-Brown, Todd Deal and Amy Ballagh were among the University staff members who assisted GEMA/HS with the workshop for the agency's senior executives, which included Jim Butterworth, director of the agency that coordinates the state's preparedness, response and recovery efforts in disasters and emergencies.

Suzanne Tatum from the Division of External Affairs also participated in organizing and coordinating the three-day event. During their time at Georgia Southern, GEMA/HS leaders toured campus facilities, conducted team-building activities, developed agency vision and mission statements, and met with state Sen. Jack Hill, state Rep. Bill Hitchens and local law enforcement including the Georgia Southern police chief. In addition, Steve Hein, director of the Center for Wildlife Education and Spenser Herkelman, director of the Southern Adventures Program were enlisted to facilitate other team-building sessions for the state's emergency management executives.

## Georgia Southern Career Services and Gulfstream Partner to Bring Experiential Learning to Students

**JULY 1, 2015**

In order to bring more internships, apprenticeships and other experiential learning opportunities to Georgia Southern students, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation awarded \$75,000 to fund a University staff member dedicated to this task.

The Savannah-based company partnered with Georgia Southern's Office of Career Services last year to establish an assistant director of experiential learning, who would serve as the central point of contact for employers interested internships for University students and work to create a culture among faculty and students where experiential learning is an expectation.

The Office hired Jason Pollett to the position, and has since seen the program grow by leaps and bounds. In addition to setting up tools for corporations to find and connect with faculty and students, the program has exponentially increased the number of students placed in experiential learning opportunities. Before the institution of the program, in 2013, Career Services placed 1,353 students in co-ops, internships, and full-time and part-time work positions. After instituting the program and the hiring of Pollett, the Office has placed 3,973 students in these positions as of June 19, 2015. In addition to growing student opportunities in experiential learning, the Office has seen an increase in the number of registered employers attending career fairs and events on campus. From the career events in 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, an additional 134 employers met with job-seeking students at Georgia Southern events.

The Office says they are working to continue this growth and provide even more opportunities for students in the future, and look forward to continuing this worthwhile endeavor with Gulfstream.

## **DIVISION OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Earlier this year, the Division of External Affairs was created. The Division includes University protocol, government relations and community engagement as well as the Office of Marketing and Communications.

In August, Trip Addison was appointed Vice President for External Affairs.



## **Interim President names Georgia Southern University's New Vice President for External Affairs**

Interim President Names Georgia Southern University's New Vice President for External Affairs

**AUGUST 10, 2015**

Georgia Southern University's Interim President, Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., RN, has announced the appointment of Trip Addison as Vice President for External Affairs. The Division of External Affairs includes University protocol, government relations and community engagement as well as the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Addison comes to Georgia Southern after serving in the role of assistant director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Prior to that, he held the position of deputy director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and previously was the Congressional and State Legislator Liaison and Policy Advisor for Deal for Governor, Inc.



He also served as policy advisor to Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal in the areas of natural resources, tax and labor. He also chaired the Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council and served as a member of the Georgia Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits.

Addison is also a "Double Eagle" graduate of Georgia Southern University, earning both a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in construction management from the College of Business Administration. He was recently named into the Georgia Southern 40 Under 40 class of 2014.

"I am very pleased that Trip has accepted the position of Vice President for External Affairs," said Interim President Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., RN, "His experience with the state of Georgia, serving the governor and also being a Georgia Southern alumnus will serve our University and our community well.

Addison will begin his new role on Sept. 1.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.

## Georgia Southern University Welcomes International Delegation to Campus

**APRIL 1, 2015**



**Back Row (left to right):** Bruce Yawn (Development Authority of Bulloch County), Leigh Ryan (World Trade Center Savannah [WTCSav]), Robin Scott (Jenkins County Development Authority), Dr. Don McLemore (GSU), Georges Lemieux (Canada), Ian Stewart (United Kingdom), Bobby Smith (Screven County Development Authority), Hannah Mullins (Candler County Development Authority), Dayo Falowo (Nigeria), Martina Stellmaszek (Germany), Lisa Bridges (GSU)

**Front Row (left to right):** Kathleen Henry (WTCSav), Jesse Dillon (WTCSav), Jamie Riggs (Candler County Chamber of Commerce), Michelle Pfeffer (Economic Development Authority of Evans County), Dorie Bacon (Screven County Development Authority), Mandy Underwood (Jenkins County Development Authority), Rachel Barnwell (Development Authority of Bulloch County), Pheobo Alozie (Nigeria)

**Statesboro, Ga.** — Georgia Southern University welcomed an international delegation to campus this week. Members of the Consular Corps., including delegates from Brazil, Quebec Canada, Canada, Hong Kong, Germany, Italy, Nigeria and United Kingdom met with community leaders of the regional economic development authorities of Bulloch, Candler, Emanuel, Evans, Jenkins, Long, Screven and Tattnall counties. Guests were given a tour of campus highlighting the Ted Smith Family Football Center and the Allen E. Paulson Stadium, Shooting Sports Center,

Manufacturing Engineering Lab and the College of Engineering and Information Technology. They also were treated to a reptile show at the Center for Wildlife Education at Georgia Southern.

The tour, organized by the World Trade Center Savannah (WTCSav) and Georgia Power initiative, was part of a three-day visit for the purpose of familiarizing the Consular Corps with the coastal region of Georgia.

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Georgia Southern host its first division B Regional Science Olympiad  
Science Olympiad

Greetings from Georgia Southern University! We were extremely happy to be host our first Division B Regional Science Olympiad, and we were glad to seeing each of you on our campus for a wonderful tournament!



Our tournament was held on the campus of Georgia Southern on **Saturday, February 21, 2015** beginning at **9:00 a.m.** Click [here](#) for the **Event Schedule**.

Coaches, this event would not be possible without your support and encouragement of your students. Please click [here](#) for valuable information in this year's **Coach's Letter**.

**Registration** instructions for this year's competition were emailed to coaches on January 22. If you have been assigned to compete at Georgia Southern and did not receive this information, please contact the Institute at the address below.

[Directions to Campus](#)

[Campus Map](#)

**Contact Information:**

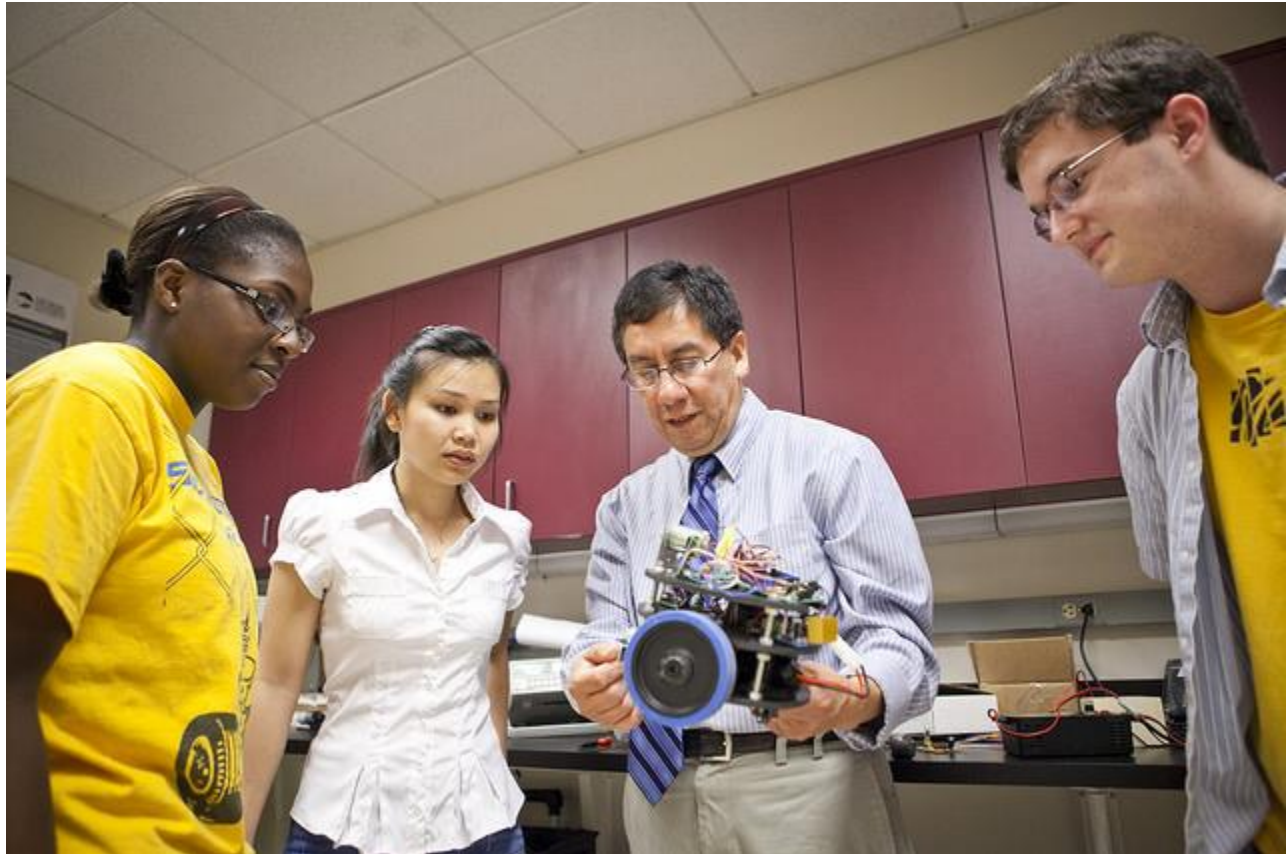
Dr. Kania Greer, [kagreer@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:kagreer@georgiasouthern.edu)



## Georgia Southern University gears up for its 2nd annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Festival

University Gears Up for 2nd Annual STEM Fest

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**



[Georgia Southern University](#) is gearing up for its 2nd annual science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) festival this Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center, 847 Plant Drive. The festival will feature presentations by the [Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education](#) at Georgia Southern, NASA and the U.S. Army.

Director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education Robert Mayes says the purpose of STEM Fest is to get students excited about what STEM has to offer.

“The Institute’s mission is to encourage the teaching and learning of STEM by thinking of authentic real-world uses for science, technology, engineering and math,” said Mayes. “One of the largest growing fields or areas with 18 to 20 percent of the growth in the job market is expected to be in STEM areas.”

Mayes says STEM Fest is a result of the increased interest from the [National Science Foundation](#) and the [Department of Education](#) to fund educational efforts to improve the number of students who are going into STEM fields.

“STEM Fest is really a free community event designed to get K-12 students, their parents and teachers hands-on and involved with STEM education,” said Kania Greer, Ed.D, grants coordinator at the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education. “They get to come to campus for a day and see what Georgia Southern is all about as well as engage in fun learning activities.”

Guests will have an opportunity to participate in activities such as designing a tabletop hovercraft, learning about solar cell robotics, creating liquid nitrogen Dippin Dots ice cream, learning how video games are created and more. There will be more than 50 exploration stations at the event.

“This year we’re expanding a bit and we’re bringing a few businesses in...we’ve got some big names coming,” said Greer. “NASA is going to come and set up, we’ve got a portable planetarium from Oatland Island [Wildlife Center] and The Society for Georgia Archeology ArcheoBus is coming. So, we’ve got a lot of opportunities for students to engage.”

NASA plans to bring an interactive exhibit that allows visitors to virtually build the new Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and have their photo taken as an astronaut at a SLS launch. A large inflatable SLS rocket will tower over the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center and exhibit-goers will be encouraged to take their photos and post them on social media using handles [@GeorgiaSouthern@NASA\\_SLS](#) and [@NASA\\_Kennedy](#) with the hashtag #JourneyToMars.

The Georgia Southern STEM Institute brings a workforce development and more STEM literate citizenship to the community to assist in making more informed decisions about issues that are going to affect the next generation.

Last year more than 1,500 guests attended the inaugural STEM Fest and this year the University expects more.

For more information about STEM Fest visit [research.georgiasouthern.edu/stemfest](https://research.georgiasouthern.edu/stemfest).

Marketing and Communications wins design award at CASE

Marketing and Communications Wins Design Award at CASE

**FEBRUARY 16, 2015**

Georgia Southern's Office of Marketing and Communications won a design award at the annual Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) conference in Orlando, Florida, Feb. 14-16.

The marketing piece, "Our Advice for the Class of 2018," won the Grand Award in the Single-Page Publication or Flier category from among universities and colleges across the country.

Megan Hopkins, lead designer in the Office, says the project was a team effort.

"It was extra-special for our team to receive an award for such a fun project," she said. This project really was a team effort, involving photography, illustration, typography and even print production."

This isn't the first award that the Marketing team has won. Over the last five years, the team has taken home several awards from CASE, the Savannah ADDY awards and the Telly Awards. With each recognition, however, Hopkins says it just validates the hard work poured into marketing projects at Georgia Southern.

"Winning this award makes me stand a little taller and work a little harder knowing my efforts might be recognized and have legs beyond the intended audience, but it also furthers our mission in the department to tell more people about the great things Georgia Southern is doing," she said.

## **ATHLETICS**

Georgia Southern's 16 varsity sports made a significant impact in the University's first season in the Sun Belt Conference. The football team and men's golf team won Conference championships, and the men's basketball team fell just three points shy of winning the basketball tournament title in the first 20-win season since the 2005-06 campaign.

Georgia Southern University's student-athletes continued to achieve in the classroom, tying a school record with a 2.97 GPA for the 2014-15 academic year and posting the highest semester GPA (3.06) in University student-athlete history in the spring semester. In addition, more than half of the varsity programs posted a 3.0 team GPA in either the fall or spring semester, and the football team and men's basketball teams set records with their highest semester GPA in program history. In other academic achievement, 72 Eagle student-athletes were selected for the Dean's List in the fall and 77 in the spring. There were 40 President's List selections in the fall and 39 in the spring.

When not competing on the playing field or working toward their degree in the classroom, Georgia Southern student-athletes spent more than 1,500 hours helping to raise funds and awareness by participating in community and campus events that included Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, Special Olympics and Relay for Life. They also visited schools to participate in reading programs like Real Men Read and did other volunteer work at local schools and nursing care centers.

The success Georgia Southern achieved on the playing field, in the classroom and in the community helped the Athletic Foundation raise over \$2 million for the 2014-15 fiscal year.



## Georgia Southern Athletics Ties Record for GPA



*Barrett Gilham*

6/9/2015 2:48:00 PM

**STATESBORO, Ga.** – The Georgia Southern Athletic Department and its over 400 student-athletes tied a school record with a 2.97 GPA for the 2014-15 academic year and posted the highest semester GPA in school history (3.06) in the spring semester.

The Eagles also had 202 student-athletes with a 3.0 or better GPA in the fall semester, 223 in the spring semester, 72 Dean's List selections in the fall, 77 in the spring, 40 President's List selections in the fall and 39 in the spring.

The men's tennis team led the way with a 3.62 overall GPA for the academic year, while the volleyball team led all women's programs with a 3.58 overall GPA.

Over half of Georgia Southern's 16 varsity sports posted a 3.0 team GPA in the fall or spring semester, while the football (2.79) and men's basketball (2.78) both posted their highest semester GPA in the spring.

Georgia Southern also helped complete one of the goals of the department's mantra "Rings and Diplomas" for 55 student-athletes who graduated this year.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, [GSEagles.com](http://GSEagles.com), through social media channels [facebook.com/GSathletics](https://facebook.com/GSathletics), [twitter.com/GSathletics](https://twitter.com/GSathletics), iOS app Georgia Southern Eagles and Android app Eagles GATA. Fans can purchase tickets to Georgia Southern Athletics events by calling 1-800-GSU-WINS or by visiting [GSEagles.com](http://GSEagles.com).

## Georgia Southern athletics paces Sun Belt in APR



6/1/2015 8:53:00 AM

**STATESBORO, Ga.** – The Georgia Southern Eagles led all Sun Belt Conference schools with 9 perfect single-year APR scores for the 2013-14 academic year. The rest of the league as a whole combined for 13 perfect single-year scores.

The Eagles also had seven teams post multi-year averages above the NCAA average.

Georgia Southern posted perfect APR scores in over 50% of their 16 sports for the 2013-14 year.

On the men's side, Men's Golf and Men's Soccer both tallied perfect 1,000 point scores for the year and both posted multi-year averages above the NCAA average.

Seven women's teams posted perfect scores, including Softball, Women's Basketball, Cross Country, Women's Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Volleyball and Rifle.

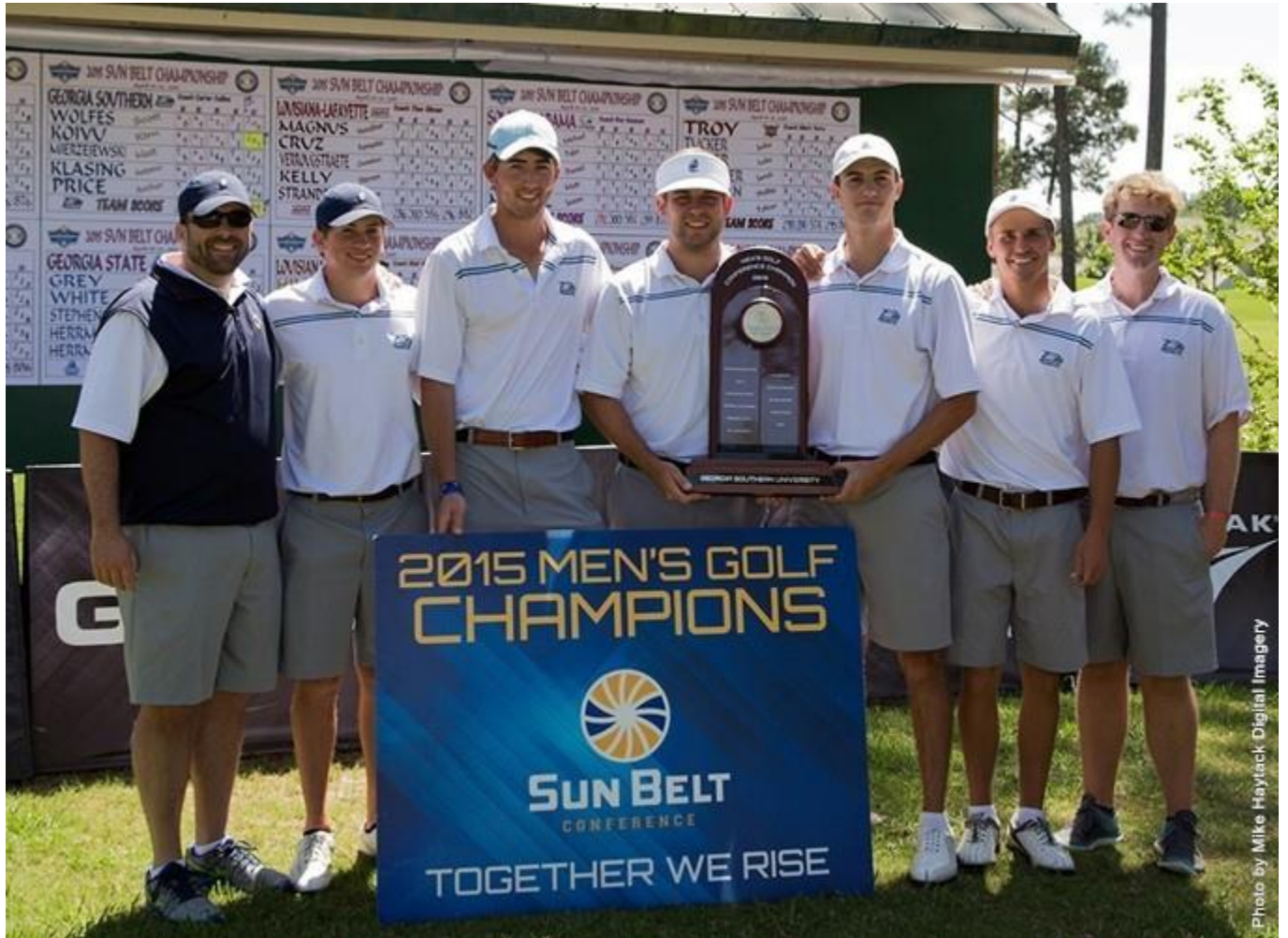
Of those seven, five posted multi-year averages above the NCAA average. Volleyball and Softball posted near perfect APR multi-year averages of 995 and 994, respectively. The other sports to best the NCAA average were Women's Basketball, Swimming and Diving and Women's Tennis.

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## Men's Golf wins second consecutive conference championship, first Sun Belt Title

### Men's Golf Wins Sun Belt Championship, Koivu Takes Medalist Honors

The Eagles earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals.



*Marc Gignac*

4/21/2015 4:53:00 PM

[VIDEO INTERVIEWS](#) | [Photo gallery](#) | [Sun Belt Video Recap](#)

**MIRAMAR BEACH, Fla.** – Senior [Kim Koivu](#) shot 71 in the final round of the Sun Belt Conference

men's golf championships to take medalist honors Tuesday at Raven Golf Club, and Georgia Southern won the team title in its inaugural season in the league.

It was the Eagles' second consecutive conference championship - Georgia Southern won the Southern Conference last season – and the ninth conference title in school history. The victory gives Georgia Southern the Sun Belt's automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals May 13-15. The Eagles will find out their destination and competition during the NCAA Championship Selection Show May 4.

Koivu (-6) held off classmate [Scott Wolfes](#) (-4) who shot 72 today to finish second. Freshman [Archer Price](#) (+6) carded a 74 today and tied for 21st, while junior [Andrew Klasing](#) (+4) posted a 78 and tied for 12th. Senior [Matt Mierzejewski](#) (+10) shot a 79 and tied for 32nd.

"Kim and Scott played tremendous all week," said Georgia Southern coach [Carter Collins](#). "They were the anchors for every round and every time we needed them to pick up the rest of the team, they did it."

The Eagles (-3) were the only team to shoot under par for the tournament and won by 16 strokes over second-place UT Arlington (+13). ULM (+14) shot an even-par 284 today to move to third, and Georgia State (+15) finished fourth.

The Eagles shot 14-under par in the first two rounds, all played Monday, and held a 20-stroke lead headed into today's action.

"The team fought through a lot of adversity today," said Collins. "The wind changed, and the course showed a lot of teeth and played about as difficult as it can. Just like yesterday, we got punched in the mouth a couple times but kept fighting and got the result we wanted."

Koivu became the eighth Eagle to win a conference individual title and the first since Drew Lethem, who won the SoCon in 2009. His score of 69-67-71=207 tied for the fourth-lowest round in Sun Belt championship history and was the lowest since 2008.

"I drove the ball pretty well and hit a lot of good wedges to give myself a lot of birdie opportunities, and took advantage of some of those," said Koivu.

Georgia Southern's team score of 279-275-295=849 was just three strokes higher than the Sun Belt Championship record of 846, set by South Alabama in 1994.

The Eagles now set their sights on the NCAA Regionals and trying to advance to the finals for the first time since 2010.

"Many of the fields we've played in this year are as good or better as a regional field," said Director of Golf [Larry Mays](#). "Our worst finish was ninth, and you have to finish fifth or better to advance. We've got some guys who have been there before who can provide some experience. You have to have a good week at Regionals. We had a good week last year until about the last 12 holes."

**Notes:** It was the fifth league title during the 15-year tenure of Mays and the third during the eight-year stint of Collins... Georgia Southern won four conference championships in the TAAC and four in the SoCon... It was the first individual win for Koivu in his two-year Georgia Southern career... It was the first time Klasing was in the 5-man lineup this season... Wolfes has now shot 70 or under in 16 rounds this season... He has 15 top-5 and 22 top-10 finishes in his career and has placed in the top-20 in 30 of his 44 collegiate starts.

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# A perfect conference slate leads football to Sun Belt championship

## Defensive Stand Seals Outright Sun Belt Conference Football Title for Georgia Southern

*Ezayi Youyoute sparks the Eagles with 81 rushing yards.*

[Georgia Southern Sun Belt Conference Championship Celebration](#)

[Post-championship interview with Coach Willie Fritz](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

**STATESBORO, Ga.** – Senior third-string quarterback [Ezayi Youyoute](#) sparked the Eagles with 81 rushing yards in the fourth quarter, and safety [Matt Dobson](#) broke up a would-be UL Monroe touchdown pass with three seconds left to lift Georgia Southern (9-3) to a 22-16 win over the Warhawks Saturday night in Paulson Stadium. The win gives the Eagles an undefeated, outright Sun Belt Conference Championship with an 8-0 record in their first season in the league. It's the seventh outright conference title in school history and the 11<sup>th</sup> league title overall.

Youyoute, who started four games at quarterback in 2012, came on in the fourth quarter with the Eagles trailing 13-9 after [Kevin Ellison](#) and [Favian Upshaw](#) were injured. On Senior Day, the senior promptly ran for 18 yards on 4<sup>th</sup>-down-and-5 to key a scoring drive that gave the Eagles a 15-13 lead. After the Eagles got the ball back, he rattled off a 48-yard run down the left sideline to set up another score and a 22-13 advantage.

"You never know when your number is going to be called," said Georgia Southern coach [Willie Fritz](#). "Ezayi's was called tonight, and he did an unbelievable job. I'm just so proud of him. He's been resilient all season long and what a spark he gave us. This game is going to be remembered for him. There are special moments in the history of this program and this is one of them and it's because of him."

"It means the world to me to finish like this," said Youyoute. "I didn't do anything special. They just plugged me in, and I did what I was supposed to do."

ULM got the ball back on the Eagle 19-yard line trailing 22-16 with 1:37 left. Pete Thomas hit Rashon Ceaser with a 40-yard pass down the right sideline and found him again with a 9-yard pass to convert a fourth down.

On 2<sup>nd</sup>-and-5 from the Eagle 19-yard line, Thomas hit Kenzee Jackson at the goal line with what looked to be the game-winning score, but Dobson put his shoulder right on the ball to pop it loose with three ticks left. Thomas' pass to Ceaser in the middle of the field fell incomplete on the final play of the game.



"We were tired, but we fought," said Georgia Southern senior linebacker [Edwin Jackson](#). "[Matt Dobson](#) made a huge play at the goal line."

Youyoute's 81 yards came on five carries for the Eagles (9-3, 8-0), and [Kevin Ellison](#) finished with 104 rushing yards and a touchdown as well as 136 passing yards. Dobson had six tackles and the pass breakup, while [Jamal Johnson](#), [Bernard Dawson](#) and [Deshawntee Gallon](#) all had a sack.

Thomas threw for 307 yards and two touchdowns for ULM (4-8, 3-5), and Ceaser finished with eight receptions for 138 yards and a TD. Jackson caught 10 passes for 87 yards.

After trailing 7-3 at halftime, Ellison led the Eagles down the field for a go-ahead score with 4:13 left in the third quarter. The sophomore quarterback looked to be headed for a sack on 3<sup>rd</sup>-down but got away and scrambled for a 24-yard gain after picking up a nice block and hurdling a defender. He hit [Kentrellis Showers](#) with a 36-yard pass down the left sideline on the next play and then took it himself for 10-yard touchdown run. The Eagles missed the PAT, making the margin 9-7.

ULM answered on its ensuing possession with a 36-yard touchdown strike from Thomas to Ajalen Holley with 2:40 left in the third. The Warhawks went for the two-point conversion, but [Antwione Williams](#) took down Thomas as he tried to scramble, leaving the margin at 13-9.

The Eagles got field position at the Warhawk 40-yard line early in the fourth quarter with the aid of a great defensive play and a blocked punt. Williams blew up a screen pass for a 5-yard loss, and Gallon blocked Justin Manton's punt.

Youyoute sparked the ensuing Eagle drive after coming on in relief of Ellison. He picked up 18 yards on 4<sup>th</sup>-and-5, and ULM was flagged for defensive holding on 4<sup>th</sup>-and-14 later in the drive. Youyoute rushed for gains of 4 and 7 yards on the next two plays, and [Matt Breida](#) finished it off with a 1-yard touchdown run. The Eagles missed the extra point and led 15-13 with 8:52 to play.

After [Jamal Johnson](#) sacked Thomas at the ULM 6-yard line to get the Eagle defense off the field, Youyoute broke off a 48-yard run down the left sideline, setting up 1<sup>st</sup>-and-goal. LA Ramsby scored from seven yards out, and [Younghoe Koo](#) hit the extra point for a 22-13 advantage with 5:28 remaining.

The Warhawks drove inside the Eagle 30-yard line, but a sack by Dawson set up 3<sup>rd</sup>-and-long, and after an incomplection, ULM settled for a 47-yard field goal by Manton. The Warhawks tried the onside kick, but [Tray Butler](#) gobbled it up for the Eagles.

Georgia Southern ran it three straight times, forcing ULM to use all of its timeouts, and a quick kick punt by Youyoute rolled dead at the ULM 19-yard line.

The Eagles got on the scoreboard first with a 27-yard field goal by [Alex Hanks](#) with 3:38 left in the first quarter. Georgia Southern ran 16 plays and melted 8:49 off the clock before a holding penalty put the Eagles behind the chains, and they had to settle for a 3-0 lead.

[Favian Upshaw](#) broke free for a 46-yard run on a quarterback keeper midway through the second quarter for the Eagles, but on 4<sup>th</sup>-and-2 from the ULM 21-yard line, the Warhawks held the Eagles short and took over on downs. Two plays later, Thomas hit Ceaser with a 63-yard pass down the middle of the field for a touchdown, and ULM opened a 7-3 lead with 6:22 left in the half.

**GAME NOTES:** Of those schools that began their first year of FBS play with a conference affiliation, Georgia Southern became only the third to win a league title in its inaugural season, joining Nevada (1992) and Marshall (1997)... Only one other team has posted a better record in its first year in FBS with Marshall going 10-3 in 1997... Ellison went over 1,000 yards rushing for the season... Coach [Willie Fritz](#) became the third coach in Georgia Southern history to record nine wins in the regular season in their first year as head coach... Upshaw's run in the second quarter was a career long, and Ramsby's 38-yard reception in the second quarter was a career long... Eagle opponents went seven quarters without being flagged for a penalty, dating back to the third quarter of the game at Texas State... Navy wasn't flagged for a penalty, and ULM went the first half without a flag tonight... Georgia Southern improved to 26-4 in Senior Day games.

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