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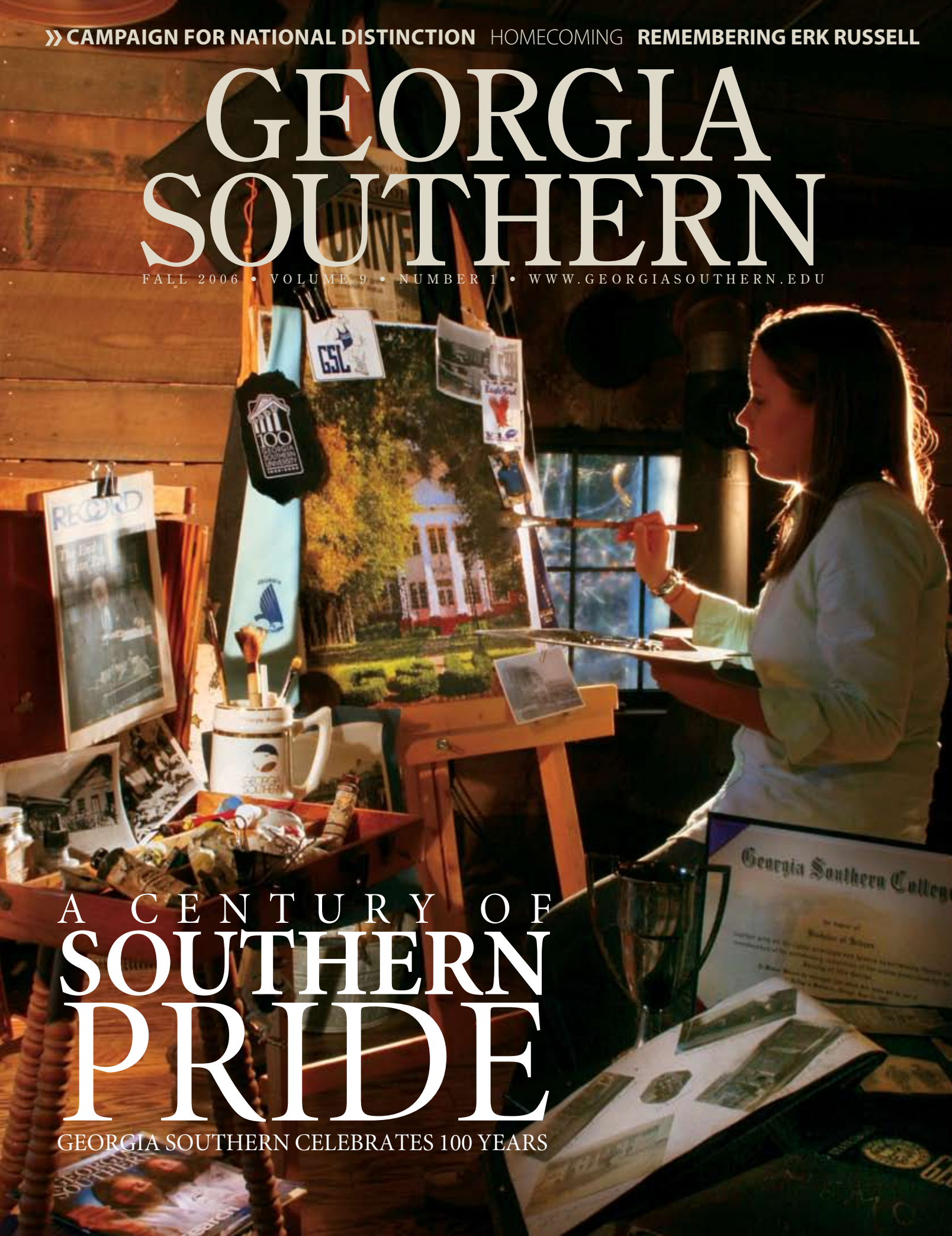
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» CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL DISTINCTION HOMECOMING REMEMBERING ERK RUSSELL

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

FALL 2006 • VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 1 • WWW.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU



A CENTURY OF SOUTHERN PRIDE

GEORGIA SOUTHERN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS





To Our ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Crisp autumn air, fragrant with pine. The familiar red brick. Birds sing as squirrels scramble up the live oaks and pecan trees planted decades ago.

The walk on Sweetheart Circle in morning's quiet moments, just before the next Georgia Southern day begins, is a special time. It's one of the sensory experiences that in 2006 ties us directly to preceding generations of our campus community. This is where *they* walked. This is what *they* saw and heard.

The beauty of our campus has been a constant. So too, I believe, has been the vision of greatness conceived and adopted amid this wonderful atmosphere that is Georgia Southern. That vision has always been of an institution that could increasingly broaden its purpose and its area of service, first beyond the city limits of Statesboro, to today's commitment to national distinction, and to tomorrow's potentially greater global reach and impact.

We are an ambitious university. We are a source of pride for all of Georgia and the Southeast. As we continue to look ahead, though, we must never forget to also look back. And now the Centennial celebration is upon us, affording us many opportunities to be reeducated on the rich history of Georgia Southern University.

Our year of celebration begins on the anniversary of December 1, 1906, the day the train arrived in Statesboro with word that the First District A&M School had been awarded to the city.

This coming year will feature several celebration events and festivities in and around Statesboro, and also in Atlanta, for the booming Georgia Southern community there.

You'll learn more about the year's activities as you page through this special Centennial edition of *Georgia Southern Magazine*. Also visit the Centennial Web page at www.georgiasouthern.edu/centennial, and plan to read the University's new release, *The Southern Century*, by Del Presley. It's a beautiful coffee-table history of Georgia Southern, filled with historical photography.

It is truly a privilege to be the University's president at this moment. May I be among the first to wish our Georgia Southern University a very happy birthday!

Bruce Grube, president



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A bird's eye view shows some of the newest campus architecture, with the Education and Nursing/Chemistry buildings in the foreground.

FRANK FORTUNE



1. East Dormitory. 2. Dining Hall. 3. Auditorium. 4. Administration Building. 5. West Dormitory. 6. Farm Buildings.

REFLECTIONS OF THE FUTURE – This rendering of the campus and Sweetheart Circle was featured in the 1926 Reflector yearbook

» 23 The Southern Century



From humble farm beginnings Georgia Southern has become the preeminent university of South Georgia with a 100-year history of turning adversity into triumph.

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A Century of Progress, Pride and Promise

Georgia Southern University kicks off year-long centennial celebration Dec. 1

After a long day of presentations and deliberations, the leaders and citizens of Statesboro and Bulloch County returned to town on Dec. 1, 1906, to deliver the good news – the bid for the First District A&M School was awarded to their community.

The collective thoughts were likely fixed on the immediate future – planning, building and readying the school for its very first students.

Over the decades that followed, the institution prepared for new students, new construction, new methods and new technologies, but never lost sight of its mission of teaching, scholarship and service.

“Our Centennial celebration pays tribute to the vision and leadership of those who initiated and advanced the mission of this institution,” said President Bruce Grube. “Georgia Southern University has contributed to the greater good of this community, this region, this state and this nation over the course of the last 100 years. The accomplishments and standards of our University and its alumni have strengthened our commitment to achieving national status. The support of the Bulloch County community has played a major

role through the decades in helping us become the quality institution we are today.”

Founders Day, Dec. 1, 2006, marks the kick-off of the Centennial celebration and the completion of the University’s Capital Campaign. Gov. Sonny Perdue has proclaimed Dec. 1 as “Georgia Southern University Day.” A full range of activities both on campus and within the community, will continue through Homecoming weekend, Oct. 26-27, 2007.

Vice President for University Advancement Billy Griffis served as chair for the Centennial Leadership Committee, overseeing the many preparations required for the nearly year-long celebration.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the University in this capacity and to guide the planning for celebrating this milestone,” Griffis said. “The events and programs planned for the Centennial are the result of many ideas and the dedicated efforts of the committee and volunteers. The breadth and depth of the Centennial celebration events guarantees there will be something for everyone to enjoy.”

One of the first public events will offer a

students’-eye view of life through the decades. The history of the institution in photographs, artifacts, scrapbooks and period clothing, “Alma Mater, Dear,” opens at the Georgia Southern Museum Jan. 22, 2007, in the main gallery. Sweetheart Circle will be the location and March 30, 2007, the date for the Campus/Community Centennial Celebration. Another program to mark on the calendar is the original opera “Scholar Under Siege,” composed by music professor Michael Braz. The opera depicts the very public political struggle between President Marvin Pittman and Gov. Eugene Talmadge. The opera is set for April 20-22 in the Performing Arts Center.

On July 4th, the Statesboro/Bulloch County community will partner with local businesses to celebrate the University’s birthday with a variety of activities at Mill Creek Park.

The University’s Fall 2007 Convocation will present a Centennial-themed program, and later in the fall, Henderson Library and Academic Affairs will host a forum that will provide insight on the future of books as information sources.

For the most up-to-date information on all campus and community events, visit the Centennial Web site at www.georgiasouthern.edu/centennial.



High aspirations

Program seeks to attract and keep science and technology students

In response to a recent government study showing that the U.S. is losing its edge in the world marketplace, Georgia Southern has initiated project ASPIRES – Advisement and Scholarship Promoting Inquiry-based Research Experiences.

A study by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that America's advantages in science and technology have started to disappear, thanks in large part to a lack of people who have post-secondary training in these disciplines.

ASPIRES is designed to increase the number of students who graduate with bachelor's degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Funded in part by a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and based in the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (COST), ASPIRES features five initiatives that seek to improve graduation rates by increasing the retention of STEM students and improving academic achievement in introductory science and math courses.

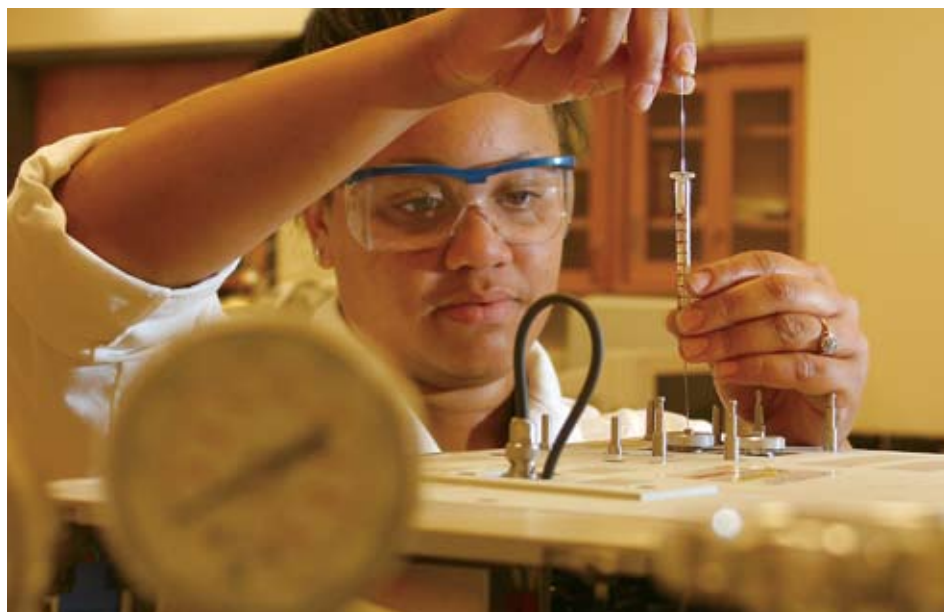
According to Professor Mary Boyd – the ASPIRES principal investigator who wrote the successful grant proposal – the five ASPIRES initiatives are aligned with the University System of Georgia Board of Regents' goal to achieve national performance levels in retention and graduation rates.

"We want to encourage students to consider a major in one of the STEM disciplines, and then we want to make sure that they remain interested and engaged until they graduate," said Boyd, chair of the Department of Chemistry and ASPIRES project director.

"By doing these things, we can help to ensure that our nation has the educated workforce in science and technology that we need to be competitive in the coming years."

"We want to keep students interested in the STEM disciplines by showing them how what they are studying relates to the real world and the career they are considering, and by challenging them in the classroom and the lab," said Bret Danilowicz, acting dean of COST.

The program will provide each student with an inclusive cycle of engagement from their freshman year through their senior year. It fea-



FRANK FORTUNE

tures three initiatives that seek to increase student retention:

- A centralized advising center to guide students and promote interaction between them and the faculty.
- Students who live on campus will be engaged through Student Learning Communities in their residence halls. Also, an upperclassman will live in the residence hall to provide academic tutoring.
- Undergraduate research opportunities for freshmen will be promoted and implemented.

Two additional ASPIRE initiatives are designed to promote student learning and performance:

- A supplemental instruction program will be implemented to promote academic achievement. Supplemental instruction will give students an additional hour each week in which they take a more active role in the learning process.
- Guided inquiry will engage students through active learning, critical thinking and problem solving. In guided inquiry, the instructor acts as a kind of "coach" who leads the students through a series of exercises that allows them to discover the answers to questions for themselves.

According to the project proposal, the five ASPIRE initiatives will directly impact more than 650 incoming first-year STEM students during each year of the project, and will eventually result in an additional 140 STEM graduates each year.

"This puts Georgia Southern in a very select group of institutions," said Boyd, who noted that ASPIRES was lauded as a model proposal in the NSF panel review.

The NSF grant will not begin until Jan. 1, 2007, but ASPIRES has already received \$800,000 in matching funds from several sources, including the Board of Regents, the University's Office of the Provost, Center for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Housing and COST.

Danilowicz, Associate Provost Amy Heaston, COST Office of Undergraduate Research Director and biology professor Bruce Schulte, and mathematics professor David Stone will serve as co-principal investigators for ASPIRES.

Danilowicz and Heaston are responsible for the administrative integration of the project into departmental and student programs within COST and the University. Schulte is responsible for the implementation of freshman research opportunities, and Stone is responsible for curricular initiatives within the Department of Mathematics.

Psychology clinic opens

A new Georgia Southern Psychology Clinic is taking appointments for adult clients in Bulloch County and surrounding counties.

In addition to offering psychological counseling services to the region, it serves as a training site for master's degree psychology students in the clinical track.

The clinic is located on campus in the Carroll Building.

"The department has been working toward offering this clinic for several years," said John Murray, chair of the psychology department.

"It allows us to connect with the community by offering much-needed psychological services, and at the same time provides a training laboratory for our graduate students."

The master's-level students who provide services in the Georgia Southern Psychology Clinic will offer social and emotional assessment and psychotherapy. As students, their work will be supervised by licensed, clinical faculty members.

Because of its limited hours, the clinic will not provide crisis intervention services, will not serve high-risk or substance-abusing patients and will not provide medications. If a patient is found to be high-risk after an initial assessment, the clinic will provide re-



Psychology professor Lisa Ferdinand works with a client in the newly opened Psychology Clinic.

ferral to local physicians and mental health professionals.

University names new Continuing Education dean

Former California State University-San Marcos dean of Continuing Education Gary Means has been named dean of the Division of Continuing Education and Public Services at Georgia Southern.

Means has more than three decades of experience in higher education.

Means assumed his duties at Georgia Southern on July 1. He replaces interim dean Brent Tharp, who returned to his previous position as director of the Museum.

"The facilities at Georgia Southern are just fantastic," Means said. "I'm also very impressed with the people, both in the administration and within this division. I see a real commitment to higher education and to reaching out to the community and all of Southeast Georgia."

Means received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work from San Diego State. He earned a Ph.D. in social work and public administration from Denver University.



New program seeks to attract and retain minority nursing students

Georgia Southern and the Magnolia Coastlands Area Health Education Center are moving to help correct a well-documented shortage of minority nurses in the workforce.

SCRUBS, a program designed to recruit minority students to nursing careers, has been funded with a three-year, \$880,000 grant from the Health Resource and Service Administration.

"In addition to recruitment activities that will bring potential nursing students into SCRUBS, the program offers students many opportunities to develop long-term mentoring relationships," said nursing professor Marian Tabi, who developed the program and serves as principal investigator on the grant. "These mentoring relationships support the retention, progression and graduation of students, a process that is a priority initiative of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

SCRUBS aims to involve potential minority nursing students all the way from seventh grade through their graduation from Georgia Southern's School of Nursing BSN program. The program will attract students,

support their academic achievement and help them learn more about the health care professions. In addition, the program will promote students' development of long-term mentoring relationships in the health care delivery system.

"We have created a variety of activities for middle and high-school students to promote nursing as a career," said Tabi, "and we'll make scholarships and stipends available to pre-nursing and nursing students to assist with the cost of books, uniforms and other items that are required."

The national Sullivan Commission report, "Missing Persons: Minorities in the Health Professions" (2004), showed that from 1980 to 2000 the number of minority nurses tripled; despite this large gain, only 12 percent of nurses nationwide come from under-represented groups.

In Georgia, 15.7 percent of nursing school graduates are minorities, and according to a Georgia Area Health Education Centers Network survey of Georgia's registered nurses, 18.5 percent of Georgia's registered nurses are minorities.

Program's aim is to BUILD stronger freshmen

While many college students were packing their belongings in preparation for the start of this school year, a group of students at Georgia Southern was already hard at work.

About 40 incoming freshmen took part in the Building Undergraduate Leadership Development (BUILD) program, part of the Southern Pathways pre-semester leadership experience.

BUILD students constructed playhouses for the Statesboro Habitat for Humanity affiliate – playhouses that will be auctioned off later in the year as a fundraiser for Habitat.

During the day, the students built the playhouses in the Habitat subdivision Statesboro Pointe. In the evening, they were involved in small group discussions led by student leaders at the University. “Each day had a theme that had to do with leadership,” said Kellie Pickett, assistant director for leadership programs. “Their first day was ‘Building Communities’ and throughout the week they created a vision statement, talked about ethical leadership and talked about being servant leaders.

“The Southern Pathways Leadership Program strives to help incoming freshmen with their transition to college life by introducing them to concepts that will enrich their educations both in and out of the classroom,” said Pickett. “The philosophy is to help students understand that leadership begins with service.



Freshmen who reported to campus early helped to build playhouses to be sold as a benefit for Habitat for Humanity.

We want them to leave with purpose in life and at Georgia Southern. We hope that we are shaping the future leaders at the University through this program.”

The students resided in the Recreation Activity Center for the week, sleeping on mats on

the floor. “We decided to do this because we want everyone in one common area to have great discussion,” Pickett said. “By the week’s end the students had logged over 1,000 combined service hours and had a stronger sense of self, their friends and their new community.”

Foundation Board transition



INCOMING FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

The Georgia Southern Foundation has welcomed new Board of Trustees members. Pictured are, standing l-r, President Bruce Grube, new member Pat O'Connor, Foundation President Billy Griffis, Board Chairman Rod Meadows. Seated, l-r, new members Billy Jones, Don Howard, Martin NeSmith and Charles Chandler.



OUTGOING FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Four Georgia Southern Foundation Trustees have recently completed their terms. Pictured are, l-r, President Bruce Grube, retiring trustee Anthony Waters, Chairman of the Board Rod Meadows, retiring member Bette Anderson Wood, Foundation President Billy Griffis and retiring trustee Curtis Whitaker. Not pictured is retiring trustee Tim Wallis.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
A Day for Southern

ADFS sets record

The 2006 edition of A Day for Southern, Georgia Southern's one-day local fund drive, continued the growing tradition of the University with a record-setting \$1,271,823 during the 33rd annual drive in September.

It marked the ninth year in a row that A Day for Southern surpassed the \$1 million mark. This year's total saw a \$50,000 increase, shattering the old record of \$1,220,334 set last year.

Proceeds from A Day for Southern fund the University Foundation and Southern Boosters.

The Georgia Southern Foundation uses a significant portion of the proceeds to help pay for the scholarships that are necessary to attract academically gifted students to campus.

A Day for Southern benefits Southern Boosters, too. The organization manages money for student-athlete scholarships and supports the athletic department, which fields teams that compete in 15 varsity sports at the NCAA Division I level.



University buses go green

Georgia Southern's campus transit system has begun its second year of operation by moving from diesel to compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered buses.

"The routes and timing have become routine for students and the shift to the new buses was fairly seamless," said Bob Chambers, Director of Transportation Services. The new fleet operates on compressed natural gas, which runs more quietly with fewer airborne pollutants. CNG is one of the most prominent alternative fuels. It rates substantially better than conventional fuels both in life cycle emissions and vehicle ex-

haust emissions.

Inaugurated in August 2005, the system is operated by Cognisa, a worldwide company that runs transit systems for colleges, corporate campuses, hospitals, sports arenas and convention centers.

Georgia Southern's system features a 10-bus fleet, with eight buses operating at the busiest time of the day. Buses begin departing Paulson Stadium at 7 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays, with a new run beginning every 3-4 minutes. After 4 p.m., a reduced fleet runs until 9 p.m., with departures every 10-15 minutes. Friday's bus service also starts at 7 a.m., but ends at 5 p.m.

Starbucks comes to campus

It was supposed to be a quiet beginning, but the unmistakable aroma of Starbucks coffee this fall clearly signaled the newest addition to Georgia Southern's Russell Union.

Students who waited for more than a year after the Starbucks plans were announced lined up to purchase coffees, lattes and frappuccinos.

"It's exciting that we don't have to go off campus to get coffee. It also gives us a nice place to hang out and talk to friends," said Rebekah Wilson, senior public relations major.

Georgia Southern joins about 200 other colleges and universities who have Starbucks on their campus. "This is one of the largest Starbucks on a college campus," said Auxiliary Services Director Tom Palfy. "Starbucks only requires 800-1,200 square feet of space. Our space is 3,000 square feet.

"Georgia Southern is a licensee with Starbucks. This means we are licensed to represent them, and we own and operate the store," he said.

"It's also important to point out that for the second time in three years our Chick-fil-A was the No. 1 Chick-fil-A in the country by business volume on college campuses," Palfy added. "I expect that Starbucks will



SUZANNE OLIVER

come close to doing the same."

The store employs 25 students and two managers. Hours are weekdays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hours may be adjusted as time goes on.

Survey Research and Health Information center opens

Recognizing the growing need for reliable decision-making data, especially in the healthcare field, researchers at Georgia Southern have created the Center for Survey Research and Health Information to provide services for the University and the region.

“Surveys are common research methods in political, health and social sciences, and in marketing,” said Gerald Ledlow, professor of health services administration and director of the center. “But creating and administering a survey and analyzing the results can be a huge task. Because we have the expertise, the software and the experience in this area, we can provide a very useful service, especially in the healthcare area. The center can do telephone and e-mail surveys, Web-based surveys, household visits, focus groups and direct mail surveys. We are a full-service shop.”

The center grew from a project recently completed by biostatistics professor Robert Vogel and his colleagues and graduate students. At the request of the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition, Vogel, a faculty member in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, developed an extensive survey to

get an accurate view of how adults perceive health and health care in their region. The survey, including both demographic items and questions about health care, insurance and access to medical care, was administered as a pilot study in Baker County, Ga.

“It was good to see that 80 percent of our respondents said their health was good or excellent,” said Vogel. “The survey respondents reported good access to health care, and most put a lot of faith in their primary physicians.”

A focal point of the survey was to determine whether men and women are benefiting from the screening methods available to detect breast, cervical, colon and prostate cancer. The results of the study were presented to the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition, which will use the data to assess needs in the area and develop new and effective screening programs.

For more information about the Center for Survey Research and Health Information, contact Ledlow in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, 912-681-5653 or go to <http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu>.

Freshman earns honors from FFA

Georgia Southern freshman Erica Giles of Valdosta, Ga., was selected as a finalist for three honors by the National FFA Organization.

Giles is one of eight finalists for Agriscience Student of the Year, one of four finalists in the Emerging Agriculture Technologies proficiency area and a national finalist in Agriscience Fair Engineering Division.



GILES

She was selected for the competitions as a result of a research project she designed and conducted during her senior year at Lowndes High School in Valdosta. Her project is titled “An Evaluation of Hydrostatic Tractors as Compared to Gear Drive Tractors: Assessing a Tractor Technology Innovation via the Scientific Method.” Her results were published in the spring 2006 newsletter of the European Society of Agricultural Engineers.

FFA, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is now the National FFA Organization. FFA includes almost 500,000 agricultural education students in the United States.

Students present research at Las Vegas conference

Four Georgia Southern students recently went national with findings from their research, conducted for a regional chain of convenience stores. On assignment for Parker’s Convenient Stores, the students concluded that cleanliness and safety are primary issues for teens choosing a convenience store.

They then demonstrated their results at the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) 2006 Show in Las Vegas in October.

“The students, armed with new experience in surveys, focus groups, and market research, really ‘wowed’ their audience,” said Kathleen Gruben, marketing professor and director of the Center for Retail Studies. “They had everyone’s attention, and conference attendees stayed for an hour afterward to talk with them.”

“Gruben’s students were able to punctuate and to bring the complex emotional teen mindset to the NACS audience of retailers and suppliers,” said Martha Russell, president of Clickin Research. “They started the session with dialog, showing retailers and suppliers the issues, attitudes and perceptions most relevant to teens. They did such a good job.”

The students’ project came as a request from Greg Parker, owner of

Parker’s Convenience Stores throughout Southeast Georgia. Parker asked a question vital to his business: What aspects of convenience stores will help build loyal teen customers?

Gruben decided to answer Parker’s question by convening a special topics class known as Directed Study in Market Research. She selected four students to conduct the project: Shanika Benton, a human resource management major from Sylvania, Ga; Jarad Brown, a marketing and sales major from Savannah, Ga; Christopher Ford, a marketing and graphic design major from Gwinnett County, Ga; and Virginia Strong, a human resource management major from Augusta, Ga.

“Attending the NACS 2006 trade show in Las Vegas has not only been an exciting opportunity for these students, it’s been invaluable experience,” said Parker. “Their research will be used to formulate how convenience stores will operate in the coming years.”

“This was a very positive learning opportunity,” said Gruben. “The students provided service for a regional retailer, learned more about marketing research and got hands-on experience that will benefit them no matter what career they choose.”

By the Numbers

A look at some of the statistics that have shaped Georgia Southern athletics over the past 100 years



1/15/60 – On this date, the school announced that “Eagles” would replace “Professors” as the official mascot. Sophomore business major Ralph Swords came up with the winning entry in a contest sponsored by the George-Anne. The first Eagle logo was based on the symbol for the Lowe and Campbell Sporting Goods Company of Cincinnati.

2 – The number of hits allowed by pitcher Tom Bigwood in an 8-0 shutout of Harvard in the 1973 College World Series.

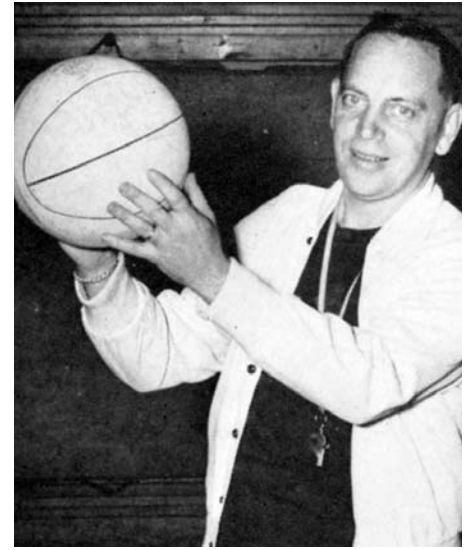
7 – The number of national championships won by the school. The baseball team took the NAIA crown in 1962 while the football team captured NCAA Division I-AA titles in 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1999 and 2000.

16 – The number of varsity letters earned by Jake Hines in the mid-1930s. Known as “the Hinesville Terror,” he received four letters in each of the following sports: football, basketball, baseball and track.



Jake Hines

83 – The number of post-game victory cigars legendary football coach Erk Russell enjoyed during his eight-year tenure with the Eagles.



Coach J.B. Scarce

396 – The number of victories the Eagles recorded in 23-plus seasons under J.B. Scarce, the winningest men’s basketball coach in school history.

3,382 – The total number of points (2,140) and rebounds (1,242) that basketball player Phyllette Blake collected between 1985 and 1989. She is the school’s all-time leader among women in both categories.



1962 NAIA baseball Championship team

9 – The number of inductees in the school’s inaugural Hall of Fame class in 1959.

26 – The number of walk-on football players who have gone on to earn All-American honors with the Eagles.



Phyllette Blake

4,227 – The total number of points (2,542) and rebounds (1,685) that basketball player Chester Webb collected between 1953 and 1956. He is the school's all-time leader among men in both categories.



Chester Webb

1 Against 40 – The title of the *Look* magazine article that chronicled the World War II heroics of Charles J. Paine, who played football and ran track for Georgia Teacher's College. Paine piloted a B-17 "Flying Fortress" that survived an attack from 40 German planes during a daylight bombing raid over northern France in October 1942. Paine flew the battered aircraft to a safe landing in England.



Lieut. Charles Paine

9 – Number of Eagles currently playing professional baseball – two in the Major Leagues and nine in the minors.

1971 – The year the school began competing at the NCAA Division I level.

17 – Number of NCAA post-season appearances by the Eagles golf team (1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1988, 1989, 1991, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006).



25,725 - The record for attendance at Paulson Stadium, set at the 1989 National Championship Game when the Eagles defeated Stephen F. Austin.

RETIRED NUMBERS

1

Jack Stallings (1976-1999) is one of the winningest coaches in collegiate history, accumulating 1,258 career victories and, guiding the program to five berths in the NCAA regionals and one trip to the College World Series.

3

Adrian Peterson (1998-2001) was a four-time All-American who set numerous school, conference and NCAA rushing records. He is in his fifth season with the Chicago Bears.

8

Tracy Ham (1983-1986) helped to put the Eagles on the map by taking them to their first two national football championships. The first player in NCAA history to rush for over 3,000 yards and pass for over 5,000 yards, he enjoyed a long career in the CFL.

15

Scotty Perkins (1949-1951) played only two seasons for what was then the Georgia Teacher's College Professors, but he still scored 1,181 points. He was the first athlete in any sport to have his number retired by the school.

20

Michael Curry (1986-1990) is the only player in school history to score over 1,000 points and rank among the top 10 in career rebounds, steals and field goal percentage. He went on to play in the NBA, where he served as president of the Players Association.

42

Jeff Sanders (1985-1989) finished his career as the No. 1 scorer, the No. 2 rebounder and the No. 1 shot-blocker in school history. He was a first-round draft pick of the Chicago Bulls in the NBA.

20

Todd Greene (1990-1993) was a three-time All-American who still ranks as the school's all-time leader in numerous offensive categories, including home runs and RBIs. He recently completed his 11th season in Major League Baseball.

Taking flight

Looking back at 'Erk's Eagles,' the daring group of players who made history

The University celebrated 25 years of football this fall, so *Georgia Southern* magazine decided to take a look back at the 1982 Eagles, who played the program's first "official" schedule of games.

According to the football media guide, 54 players earned letters as the Eagles compiled a 7-3-1 record during that inaugural season.

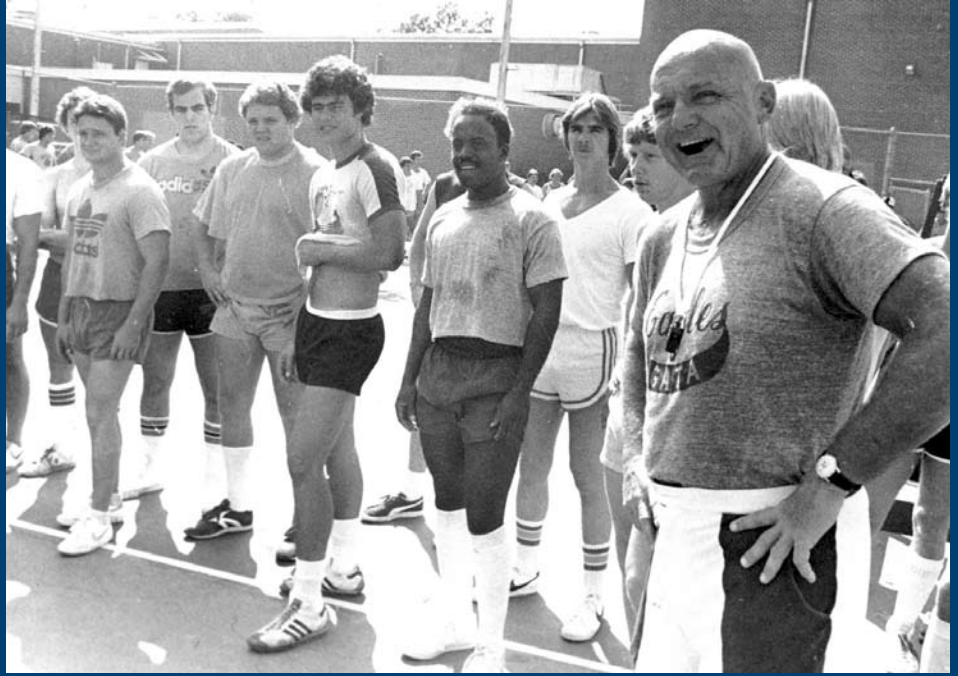
A lot of those players arrived on campus in the fall of 1981, when 126 walk-ons gathered for their initial practice sessions under soon-to-be legendary head coach Erk Russell.

Although the media guide no longer contains any mention of them, the fledgling Eagles actually played four "practice" games in 1981. These contests included an intra-squad scrimmage in Dublin High School's Shamrock Bowl, plus matchups against the Florida State University junior varsity, a group of soldiers known as the Fort Benning Doughboys, and a collection of Jacksonville, Fla., police officers who called themselves Magnum Force.

The program's talent level began to increase significantly in the fall of 1982, thanks in large part to the transfer of players like offensive lineman Jeff Evans (LSU) and defensive lineman Eddie Johns (Florida State).

"My dad had read an article in the Jacksonville paper about Georgia Southern re-starting its football program," Johns recalled. "We drove to Statesboro, met Erk at Snooky's, and I agreed to transfer from Florida State that day. Best decision I ever made."

Erk's Eagles played their first "real" game on Sept. 11, 1982, in Johns' hometown of Jacksonville, where they defeated Central Florida 16-9 in the Gator Bowl, which is now called Alltel Stadium.



Erk's first Eagles tried out for the squad with sprints on the varsity tennis courts. He fondly called them "126 of the most enthusiastic non-athletes" he had ever seen.

The team's other wins came over Baptist, Valdosta State, Fort Benning, Newberry, Mars Hill and the FSU JV. The Eagles lost to Gardner-Webb, Catawba and future Southern Conference rival Wofford, and they tied Valdosta State.

Running back Melvin Bell rushed for a team-high 688 yards, quarterback Rob Allen passed for 485 yards, and receiver Scott Connors had 16 catches for 169 yards. Lineman Jessie Jenkins led the defense with 101 tackles.

Only four of the players who lettered in 1982 – rover back Hugo Rossignol, Evans, Jenkins

and Johns – were still on the team three years later when Georgia Southern won its first NCAA Division I-AA national title.

When they first arrived in Statesboro, few of those original Eagles dreamed that they would leave Georgia Southern with a championship ring.

"Not in 1982," said Johns, who now lives in the Atlanta area and works in the mortgage loan securities industry. "But as we progressed in '83 and '84, I knew we had a great shot at making the playoffs. Once we got there, we knew that anything could happen – and it did."

Where are they now?

The players who lettered on the 1982 football team:

Truman Anderson – director, Screven County Rec Dept., Sylvania, Ga.
Robert Baker – CEO, R.B. Baker Construction Co., Garden City, Ga.
Robbie Bortles – general manager, TTI Inc, Orlando, Fla.
Jay Cravey – teacher and coach, Toombs County High School, Lyons, Ga.
Pat Douglas – investment officer, MorganKeegan Co. Inc., Augusta, Ga.
Jim Dye – teacher and coach, Burke County High School, Waynesboro, Ga.
Daryl Fineran – principal, William James Middle School, Statesboro

Thomas Gilstrap – head football coach, Spalding High School, Griffin, Ga.
Randy Griffin – president, CSRA Business Lending, Augusta, Ga.
Nathaniel Hayes – teacher-coach, Effingham Cty H.S., Springfield, Ga.
Eddie Johns – SLS Mortgage, Atlanta
Gip Johnston – V.P. of development, Taz Anderson Realty, Atlanta
Jimmy Kerfoot – owner, Bald Eagle Foods Inc., Leesburg, Ga.
Scott Lasalle – operations manager, Atlantic Food Service, Cumming, Ga.
Jeff Lee – head football coach, Dawson County High School, Dawsonville, Ga.

Hall of Fame Inductees

Six people were inducted into the University's Athletics Hall of Fame in November. The Class of 2006 features four former athletes, the most generous booster in school history, and the long-time radio voice of the Eagles.

Gene Bishop (contributor) – A former Southern Boosters chairman, Bishop funded the Bishop Field House at Paulson Stadium. He is the single largest contributor to the athletics department and has made substantial donations to the College of Business Administration and Alumni Relations. Bishop is a key contributor to the planned Alumni House and Visitors Center. He was Georgia Southern's recipient of the Southern Conference Distinguished Service Award in 2003. In 2000, he was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree. Bishop received the Alumni Association's Friend of the University Award in 1997.



Jill Dunn (basketball) – Dunn played from 1989-1993 and played a key role in two Lady Eagle conference championships. She helped lead her team to an NCAA Tournament appearance in 1993. Dunn is the school record holder for career three-point field goal percentage and ranks fifth on the season and sixth in career 3-pointers, fourth in all-time assists, and eighth in career steals. She is head coach at Jacksonville University.



Jimmy Ellis (golf) – Ellis played from 1970-1973. He was First-team All-America in 1973 and led the Eagles to consecutive appearances in the NCAA National Championship in 1972 and 1973. Ellis won four collegiate events. He was a member of the 1975 U.S. Walker Cup Team. He declined an invitation to play in The Masters as an amateur. Ellis played on the PGA Champions Tour until his death in September 2004.



Nate Hirsch (announcer and supporter) – The radio "Voice of the Eagles" for 35-plus years, Hirsch became play-by-play man for Eagle basketball during the 1971-72 season and made history in 1973 when he began broadcasting baseball games – the first time a commercial radio station in the U.S. carried a school's entire schedule. He called every football game on the University's sports network from 1982 through 2005. Hirsch called two College World Series appearances, six I-AA national championship football seasons, and three appearances in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.



Darin Van Tassell (baseball) – Van Tassell played from 1986-1989 and served as assistant coach from 1994-1999. A four-year letterman, Van Tassell was a three-time Scholar Athlete of the Year selection and the University's first Rhodes Scholar finalist. He played second base, third base, shortstop and outfield. Van Tassell has taught baseball abroad since 1989. He served as head coach of the Nicaraguan National Olympic Team in 1994 before coaching the squad in the 1996 Centennial Games in Atlanta, leading them to the Bronze Medal game against the United States. Van Tassell is a faculty member of the University's Center for International Studies.



Tim Willis (cross country) – Willis competed collegiately from 1990-1994. The first blind cross country runner in NCAA Division I history, he ran in the 1990, '94 and '96 World Championships. Willis competed in the 1996 Paralympic Games, winning a silver medal in the 10,000 meters and bronze medals in the 1,500 meters, 5,000-meter relay and 1,600-meter relay. He also participated in 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games, winning the Bronze in the 10,000 meters. He set two world records and was semifinalist for the Sullivan Award, given to the top U.S. Amateur Athlete. Willis is now an attorney for the Disability Law and Policy Center of Georgia.



Where are they now?

Scott Lokey – senior network architect, Sprint, Atlanta
Tony Natson – assistant principal, William James M.S., Statesboro.
John Richardson – president, Phoenix Realty Group, Jacksonville, Fla.
Hugo Rossignol – law enforcement, Jacksonville, Fla., Sheriff's Office
Other lettermen: Rob Allen, Brit Barker, David Barras, Buddy Beauchamp, Melvin Bell, Randy Benson, Bob Black, Joe Bremer, Jerry Cain, Mike Carter, John Coen, Scott Connors, Mark Davis, Doug Diebolt, Jeff Evans, Henry Foots, Jeff Gorsuch, Gib Hastings, Ben Holt,

Jessie Jenkins, Steve Lomastro, Patrick McDevitt, Rick Perry, Tim Sazama, Mike Seamans, Gene Sease, David Shields, David Simmons, Kevin Spurgeon, Jeff Smith, Patrick Ward, Theoria Ward, Larry West, Daman Wickham and Sammy Williams.

Tough schedule preps hoopsters for SoCon run

Men's basketball coach Jeff Price is hoping an influx of new faces will help the Eagles maintain their familiar perch in the Southern Conference standings.

The Eagles return four of their top five scorers from last season, when they went 20-10 and earned the program's first postseason bid since 1992.

However, after winning their third South Division title in five years, the Eagles will need some of their rookies to step and contribute this season. The preseason roster included two junior college transfers and five freshmen.

"I think we've got a good blend of experience and newcomers," said Price, who entered his eighth season with a 122-83 record at Georgia Southern. "Experience is the most important part of the game, and we have a good group of guys who played a lot of minutes last year.

"The question is, how quickly will the new guys come along? If they progress quickly, we can have a pretty deep team."

The Eagles lost two starters to graduation, most notably guard Elton Nesbitt, the SoCon player of the year who averaged 21.7 points per game last year.

The team returned three starters in senior guards Donte Gennie (12.7 ppg) and Jimmy Tobias (7.4 ppg) and junior forward Louis Graham (11.4 ppg and 7.4 rpg). Junior guard Dwayne Foreman (4.9 apg), who averaged 26 minutes per game off the bench last year, is back, too.

Price believes this quartet of players will enable the Eagles to continue to play their up-tempo style of basketball. They were first or second in scoring in the SoCon in six of the last seven years.

"You don't replace a guy like Elton with just one individual," Price said. "We're looking for everybody else to step up."

Juco transfers Matt Fields and Marcus Hubbard are forwards who are expected to lend Graham a hand in the paint.

All of the team's newcomers received their formal introduction to Division I basketball when the Eagles opened their season with two games at Duke's famed Cameron Indoor Arena. The games were part of the College Basketball Experience, a 16-team tournament that included Duke, Marquette and Stanford.

A few days later, the Eagles visited the University of Illinois. They will play at Clemson on Dec. 17.



SUZANNE OLIVER

Head Coach Jeff Price works with newcomer Krzysztof Janiszewski, a 6-11 280 pound freshman center from Dzierzoniow, Poland.

"This is the most difficult schedule we've played since I've been here," Price said, "but we really enjoy the challenge. We may take a few lumps along the way, but it will get us ready for our conference schedule and make us a better team in the long run."

Speaking of the SoCon, Price says that the College of Charleston is the team to beat this

season. He listed Appalachian State, Davidson, Furman and North Carolina-Greensboro as potential spoilers.

"As I said, experience is the most important thing you can have, and Charleston has everybody back from last year," Price said. "I think that makes them a unanimous favorite to win the conference."

Achievement is largely
the product of steadily
raising one's levels
of aspiration...
and expectation.

JACK NICKLAUS

THE GOAL: \$40,000,000
THE TOTAL: \$53,051,156

Georgia Southern has accomplished mightily
in 100 years and is prepared to enter its second century
with confidence, poised for even greater achievements.
And while much has changed since 1906, it remains true
that the bounds of achievement are marked only
by imagination, desire and persistence.

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one of the top public comprehensive universities
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milestone along the path to greatness.

The Campaign has focused five years of effort
and the support of faculty, staff, alumni and friends
to bring us to the Campaign's conclusion...



THE CAMPAIGN FOR
NATIONAL DISTINCTION
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

At the core of the drive to national distinction is academic distinction.

Georgia Southern has forged a solid academic core in our comprehensive degree offerings, nationally accredited quality, and strong faculty teaching ethic. These are the elements of our character as an undergraduate university. Academic distinction evolves from the rising caliber of teachers and learners and the quality of their intellectual environment – eminent professors who are committed to both scholars and students – superior students who bring high expectations to the academic culture and a campus that is armed with resources for achievement and engagement.

{ HIGHLIGHTS }

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

Scholarships are essential to shaping a student profile in which distinction complements diversity. Merit-based scholarships ensure that high-achieving and special talented students choose Georgia Southern, bringing abilities and accomplishments that enrich the University's academic environment. Need-based scholarships ensure that the campus benefits from the representation and perspective of qualified students from all economic and ethnic backgrounds.

The Campaign has expanded the range and number of special-interest scholarships, infusing the contributions of high-ability students throughout disciplines. The funds contribute to a pool of scholarships to recruit high-ability students, a pivotal factor in managing enrollment quality by increasing admission standards and improving retention.

THE HONORS ENDOWMENT

Superior students seek certain characteristics in their college of choice: a challenging curriculum, small classes with their intellectual peers, a dedicated core of outstanding professors, access to special learning resources and opportunities, and significant scholarship awards.

The University Honors program was inaugurated in 1997 to offer that kind of enriched academic experience to intellectually ambitious students – as well as an extra incentive for such students to choose Georgia Southern. The program was successful from the beginning in expanding the University's reach into higher tiers of prospective students.

Although the Honors program has attracted significant scholarship support from donors, the rapid growth of qualified applicants – minimum 1200 SAT and 3.5 GPA – continues to exceed endowments. The program is now less-dependent on funds diverted from other important Foundation-supported programs to underwrite its growth.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

The HOPE Scholarship has been a major source of financial assistance for Georgia students, but coverage of tuition and fees and a partial book allowance is only part of the cost of college. More than half of Georgia Southern students depend on some form of financial aid as well as income from work. A scholarship of even a few hundred dollars a semester can make the difference for students with marginal resources to complete their degrees.

EMINENT SCHOLAR CHAIRS

Endowed chairs and distinguished professorships bring to campus esteemed scholars with the academic magnetism to attract significant grant support for their work, visiting scholars of international importance and well-credentialed applicants for faculty positions. Their reputation enhances the academic stature of the University. Their presence on campus raises the visibility and value of distinction as an academic standard.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE PROGRAMS

The level of institutional resources devoted for faculty enrichment programs is a pivotal element in the recruitment of highly qualified faculty. This is also a factor in the ranking of the nation's top universities. Endowment funds here allow faculty members to improve and advance their teaching, scholarship and service. It also provides funding to support artists/scholars-in-residence and visiting government, corporate and professional leaders.

TO ENHANCE THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH BASE

Fellowships offer graduate students and faculty mentors the opportunity to develop quality research programs that can compete for federal, state, and local grants, as well as programs sponsored by the private sector.

JIANN-PING HSU COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Established as the first school of its type in the University System, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health is dedicated to enhancing the health of rural communities and eliminating health disparities among underserved populations through our educational programs, innovative research projects, and community based public health outreach and service. It was endowed by alumnus and biostatistics professor Karl E. Peace in memory and honor of his wife.

ALLEN E. PAULSON COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Paulson College of Science and Technology is benefitting from the gifts of the Allen E. Paulson Estate. The College is able to further its challenging, research-based and technology-infused education that promotes lifelong learning and stewardship for the benefit of the human, natural and technological resources of Georgia, the nation and the world.



Georgia Southern Professor of Biostatistics Karl Peace has endowed the University's new College of Public Health.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Georgia Southern's naturally beautiful campus has always been an integral part of the college experience here. The Physical Master Plan uses the University's environmental assets – an abundance of land area, woods and wetlands, a century-old historic district – as the stage for developing a distinctive learning environment, improved by new buildings, more efficient traffic flow, distinctive landscape features, and conservancy of the University's natural historic area.

{ HIGHLIGHTS }

ALUMNI HOUSE AND WELCOME CENTER

The University's historical gates and lamp-lined drive to Sweetheart Circle will always be its signature entrance, but the tremendous growth of the campus to the southwest will create a new center of gravity for public access and activity. The campus gates at Akins Boulevard will increasingly become the "main entrance" to the University for out-of-town guests.

The existing Alumni House – a converted three-bedroom home that once served as the president's residence – is now home to the University's alumni and development programs, with insufficient space for either and no area to receive alumni groups. The new building will offer the best of both worlds for returning alumni and other visitors. The projected 11,000 square-foot building will be located on Akins Boulevard, convenient to out-of-town traffic with ample space for parking and within walking distance of Paulson Stadium. The center will allow for the expansion of alumni services with facilities for receptions, special events and programs vital to a quality alumni relations program serving a University with more than 60,000 graduates.



An artists rendering projects the appearance of the planned Alumni House and Welcome Center on Akins Boulevard.



The University Honors Program features seminar-style classes focused on discussion and intensive learning by Georgia Southern's highest achieving students.

STUDENT CENTERED

A student-centered campus offers a rich college experience, conveys high expectations, promotes involvement and seeks ever-higher benchmarks for student success and satisfaction.

Student-centeredness is woven into the fabric of the campus, from the University's first contact with prospective students to commencement ceremonies where each graduate's name is called as diplomas are personally presented.

To underscore the centrality of our high-touch commitment to students, our quality enhancement plan – which will serve as the basis of our renewed accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – has focused on advancing a culture of engagement.

{ HIGHLIGHTS }

ATHLETICS FACILITIES

National distinction is achieved by high-profile universities in many ways, one of which is successfully competing in intercollegiate athletics. For alumni, students and fans, a successful program is a rallying point for activity, involvement, spirit and pride.

The Campaign has led to a new Paulson Stadium fieldhouse, already in heavy use in its first few months of use. It includes new team locker rooms and meeting space for pre-game gatherings and special events.

The expansion of J.I. Clements Stadium has been completed, radically upgrading the facility from its 1960s-era layout to one of the best in the nation and capable of supporting bids to host post-season play.

COBA CORPORATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The College of Business Administration has initiated its Corporate Leadership Council Program, bringing highly motivated and accomplished leaders in the public and private sectors to campus for the benefit of its students.

The Program affords the opportunity for students to learn first-hand from successful role models and to meet with them one-on-one to gain from their reservoir of knowledge and experience.



Among the latest additions to campus is the Bishop Field House at Paulson Stadium and the renovation of J.I. Clements Stadium. Students also benefit greatly from classrooms led by dedicated and enthusiastic professors willing to work one-on-one with them while employing the latest teaching technologies.



TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

It is impossible to overstate the importance of technology in Georgia Southern's rise to the highest national standard. The University must accommodate the continuous and rapid advancement of technology in classroom, laboratories and libraries and it must use the new technologies to the best advantage for effective teaching and learning and efficient management.

{ HIGHLIGHTS }

i2 TECHNOLOGIES GIFT

Georgia Southern's Logistics Program received a multi-million dollar gift of software from i2 Technologies and an accompanying gift of training and installation from Chainalytics that will benefit both the company and University students.

i2 Supply Chain Strategist was identified by program faculty as a leading planning tool that will help fulfill the strategic vision of their program. Students will be on the leading edge of logistical strategies and solutions for moving goods through the supply chain to the right markets at the lowest cost. In turn, graduates will take their knowledge of the tool into the workplace. The Program is using the software and training in the majority of the required courses for its majors.

The College of Information Technology places its students on the front line of groundbreaking developments in electronic information sharing. Students take on real-world projects provided by corporations in need of new and innovative ways to gather and utilize data.



PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Georgia Southern is engaging in an increasing number of partnerships with communities, schools, healthcare professionals, and state and federal agencies. Partners in private giving have extended the University's learning environment to the region through public educational and cultural centers on campus and in communities. Major thrusts of partnership initiatives include economic development, health and wellness, and cultural enrichment, especially in Georgia's underdeveloped rural regions.

{ HIGHLIGHTS }

OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

In the heart of campus is the Center for Wildlife Education, a living laboratory of forest and wetlands, where bald eagles, owls, hawks and falcons live side by side in natural habitats.

A major initiative is underway to complete the 13-acre addition to the master plan which includes facilities for bird watching and wetlands conservation and study, bringing a new "live" dimension to the Center's educational programming.

For the past decade, the Botanical Garden has interpreted the region's rural heritage and taught people of all ages and abilities about native plants from the Coastal Plain. A newly approved master plan calls for blending garden traditions of the Old South with a 21st Century focus on native plants and sustainability.

For more than two decades the Museum has showcased the natural and cultural history of the coastal region as well as visiting exhibits from some of the best museums in the country. As the only accredited museum of its kind in the region, its in-house and outbound educational programs fill a vital niche in the region.

NCR PROJECT

National Cash Register Corp. (NCR) and Georgia Southern are partnering to allow students to develop point of sale software development.

The partnership ensures that graduates of the University's IT program enter the marketplace with strong technological skills, knowledge of the retail industry and meaningful software development experience. They enter the workplace with a distinct competitive advantage because of their software development experience.

The project has already received an award from the Coastal Business, Education and Technology Alliance for innovative use of technology in education.



T RANSCULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

Preparing students to be effective and successful in the global economy and to navigate differing cultures requires the resources to offer a range of international experiences. Increased funds through private support have increased the opportunities for study abroad scholarships, recruiting international faculty and students to diversify the University campus, faculty exchanges, and the visiting scholars program.

{ HIGHLIGHTS }

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Experiencing first-hand the culture and people of another country helps to mold students into global citizens with a broader perspective on issues. Private support for study abroad has increased transcultural opportunities for all Georgia Southern students as well as access for students whose financial need might be a barrier to taking advantage of these programs.

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

Transcultural experiences are brought to campus through the presence of faculty and students from other countries and cultures. It takes continuous recruiting of these individuals to maintain an international population on campus. Visiting scholars and graduates then return to their countries, bringing home and sharing American experiences that increase understanding between nations. International faculty also share their knowledge and cultures through their involvement in campus life. Additional funding has increased the University's recruiting presence at international fairs and advertising in media that reaches international students and faculty.

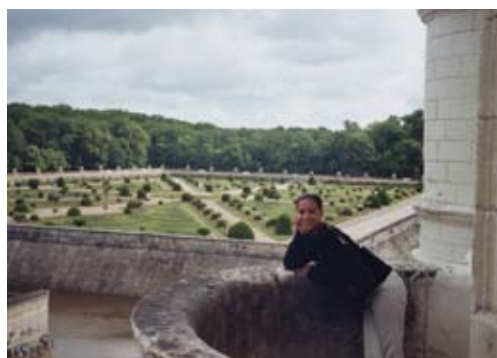
FACULTY EXCHANGE & VISITING LECTURESHIPS

Faculty exchange programs and visiting lectures also contribute to transcultural experiences, as professors who travel abroad for research or study return to campus with new ideas. As visiting scholars, Georgia Southern faculty share their best practices in other countries, fostering international relationships. Visiting scholars from other nations bring a different perspective on global issues, broadening students' world views.

They may also use fresh teaching techniques that stimulate learning. Resources earmarked for the travel expenses of Georgia Southern faculty and stipends for visiting scholars will continue to attract the highest caliber participants.



Students who travel overseas to study return with a broader perspective on world issues which they bring to their University classrooms and extracurricular activities.



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 Mr. and Mrs. L. Guy Palmer, II
 Grainger Honda
 Estate of Em Olivia Bevis
 Charles A. Dana Foundation, Inc.
 Estate of Dr. Julian C. Stanley, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe McGlamery
 Mr. and Mrs. Julius Edel
 Synovus Trust Company
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Deal
 Jarrard Chevrolet Buick Pontiac
 Mr. and Mrs. James E. Dull
 Bermuda Run Apartments
 Dr. and Mrs. Harry Carter
 Drs. James R. and
 Betsy H. Nichols
 Trellis Garden Inn
 Memorial Health
 Georgia Utility Contractors
 Mr. and Mrs. Spencer P. Hoynes
 Dr. Vladan Jovanovic
 Mr. and Mrs. James W. Anderson
 H. A. Sack Company, Inc./
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Roesel
 WRW Scholarship Foundation
 Wilder Communications
 Ms. Gussie E. Deever
 Dr. and Mrs. W. Bede Mitchell
 Dr. Jeffrey McLellan &
 Dr. Judith McLaughlin
 Ms. Debra Batey
 Bulloch County Commissioners
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick G. Blanchard
 Coastal Chevrolet
 Car City
 BMW Architects

Mr. Grayson L. Trapnell
 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Andrews
 Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Powell
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 Mr. Richard S. Beene
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 Downtown Rotary Club
 of Statesboro
 Jerry D. Rushing Construction
 L. A. Waters Furniture Company
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 Drs. Charles H. and Betty B. Wray
 Dr. and Mrs. John R. Lindsey
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Warren Ball
 Dr. and Mrs. G. Lane Van Tassell
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Murray
 Mr. Carl and Dr. Linda Bleicken
 Mrs. Joan B. Harris
 Dr. and Mrs. Henry J. Proctor
 Mr. Cecil T. Christopher, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Correll, Jr.
 Mary Allen Branan Foundation
 Effingham County Board
 of Commissioners
 Coopers Auto Exchange
 Black Alumni of Georgia
 Southern University
 Allan Vigil Ford / Mr. Allan Vigil
 Mr. Richard K. Lane
 Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon
 Viracon
 Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hodges
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kennedy
 Dr. Jane A. Page
 Dr. and Mrs. James Bradford
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Moore
 Dr. Cathy O. Swift
 Dr. and Mrs. Gene Waters
 Wal-Mart
 Ms. Alma C. Hopper
 Dr. Mary F. Hazeldine
 Mr. Joseph D. Purvis
 Mr. Henry and Dr. Judy
 Schomber
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Rushing
 Ms. Sandra Robinson
 Mr. Norris B. Strickland

A.B. Beverage Company, Inc.
 Farm Bureau Insurance
 Ms. Jennifer J. An
 Thigpen, Lanier, Westerfield
 & Deal, CPAs
 Talon's Lake
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stockton
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Huggins
 Dr. and Mrs. William H. Bolen
 Park Avenue Bank
 Mr. and Mrs. Lewis M. Stewart
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 Mr. William R. Watson
 Kentucky Fried Chicken/
 Mr. Owen D. Harris
 Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bunce
 Mr. Bill and Dr. Nancy Herring
 Mr. and Mrs. David D. Wood
 Ms. Gail U. Reed
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. Mathews
 Dr. and Mrs. John C. Adams, Jr.
 Marketing Solutions by Design, Inc.
 Educational Foundation of
 Georgia Society of CPAs, Inc.
 Dr. Linda L. Arthur
 Georgia Power Company
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Stoddard
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Payne
 Mr. Justin Wright
 Sapp Outdoor Advertising
 Company
 Dr. Sue Moore
 Dr. and Mrs. Andrew S. Edwards
 Claxton Poultry
 Gunter Heating & Air/
 Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gunter
 Dr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Sparks
 Mr. Lee and Dr. Rebecca Davis
 Lee, Hill, & Johnston Insurance
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cummings
 Mr. and Mrs. Max G. Manack
 Mr. and Mrs. C. Ricky Nessmith
 Mrs. Alane M. Claxton
 Southeastern Hospitality
 Services, Inc.
 Eagle Tours, Inc.
 United Way of Screven County
 Dr. Jayne Perkins-Brown
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 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Kingery
 Metter Ford
 Dr. and Mrs. Kemp Mabry
 Mr. and Mrs. M. Albert Burke
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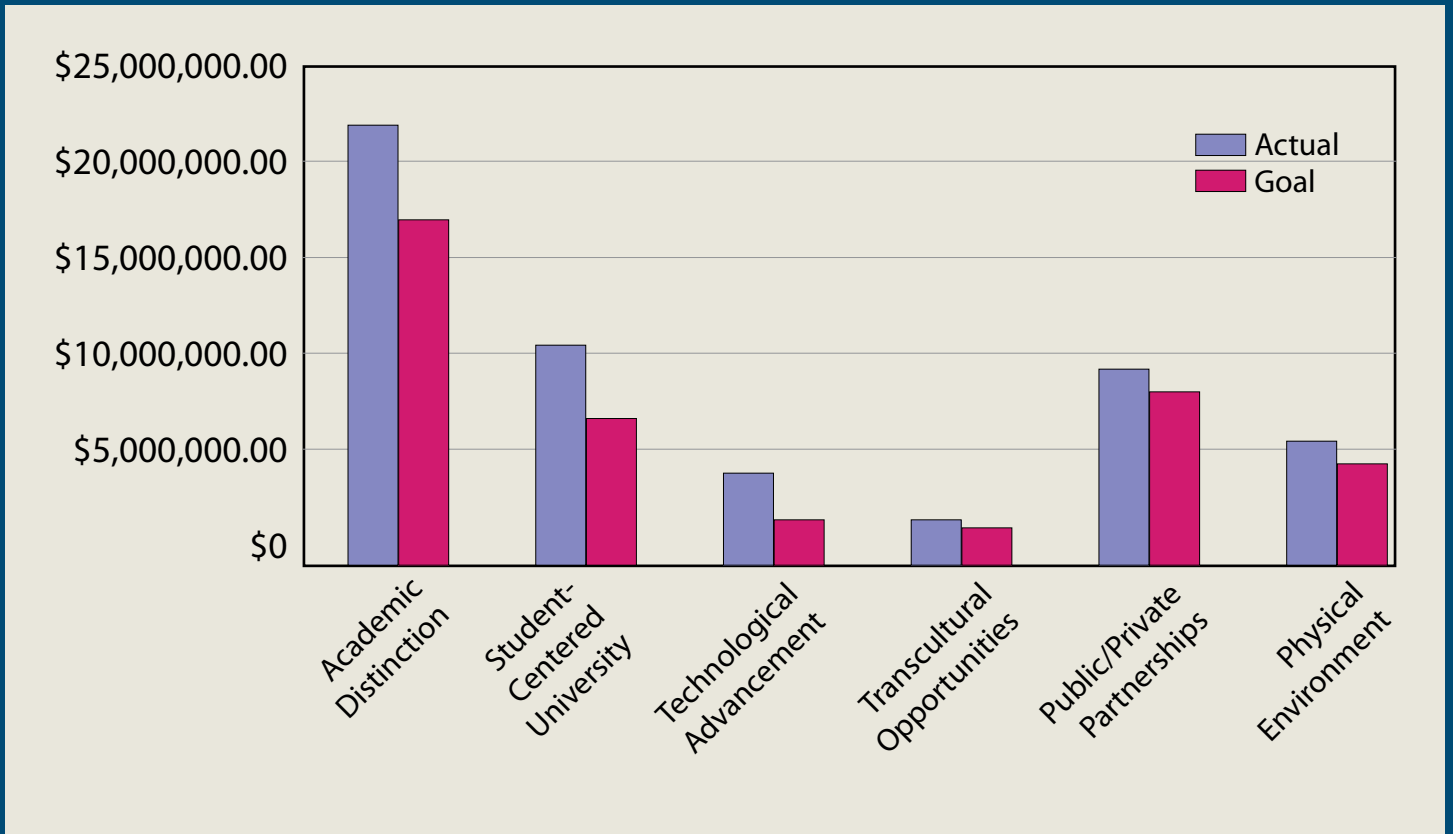
Statesboro Service League
 Statesboro Hebrew
 Congregation
 Hal Roach Jr., P.C., Attorney at Law
 Mr. and Mrs. John Davis
 Mr. Aaron Popkin
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene Crawford
 Parrish Portable Toilets
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 Mr. and Mrs. James L. Campbell
 Mr. and Mrs. Clay Bunch
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 Mrs. Herbert E. Kernaghan
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 Wendell W. Tompkins
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 Mr. and Mrs. Whitney C. O'Keefe
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 Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Reddick



THE CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL DISTINCTION

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Campaign for National Distinction Donations by Key Investments



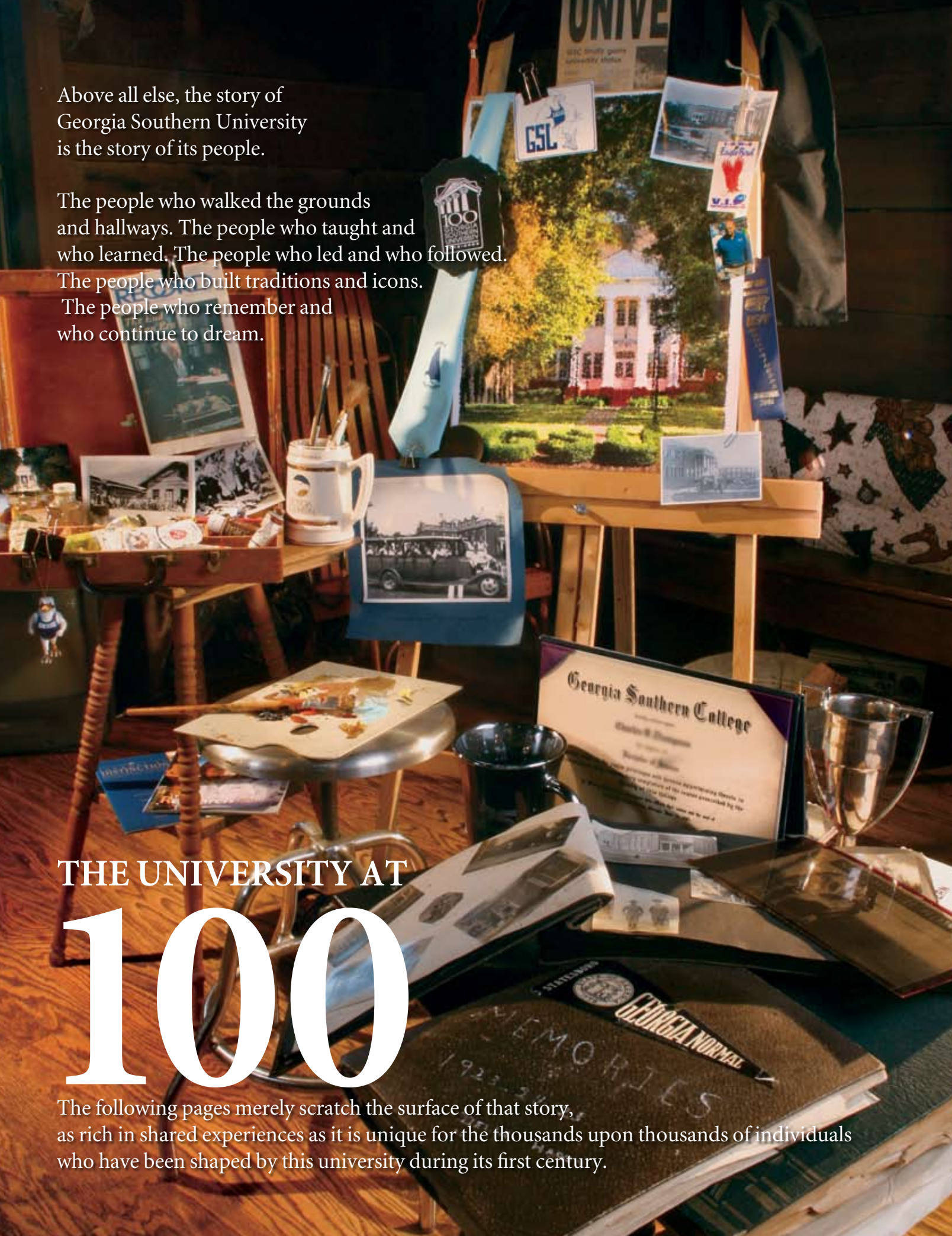
GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY

Above all else, the story of Georgia Southern University is the story of its people.

The people who walked the grounds and hallways. The people who taught and who learned. The people who led and who followed. The people who built traditions and icons. The people who remember and who continue to dream.

THE UNIVERSITY AT 100

The following pages merely scratch the surface of that story, as rich in shared experiences as it is unique for the thousands upon thousands of individuals who have been shaped by this university during its first century.



Leaders of a school...

Presidents have met the challenge of accomplishing Georgia Southern's mission



J. Walter Hendricks
1908-09



Ernest V. Hollis
1920-26
Georgia Southern's first professionally trained administrator moved the school from a high school to a two-year teacher's college as Georgia Normal School. Hollis sponsored the first campus newspaper, Station G.N.S., a quarterly newsletter that was mailed to alumni.



Guy H. Wells
1926-34
Guy Wells was elevated from dean of the college to president and set about making the institution a four-year college. Under his guidance, the American Association of Teacher's Colleges granted the two-year program full accreditation. In 1929, Wells' efforts to reach senior college status were realized and the name was changed to South Georgia Teachers College. Wells, always interested in immersing students in current thinking balanced by historical perspective, brought in stones from sites all over Georgia that were incorporated into walkways, fountains and flower gardens near the ponds located at the then-back of campus. His administration hosted nationally named speakers like philosopher Will Durant and scientist George Washington Carver.



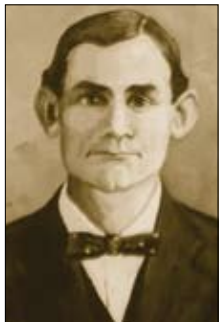
Marvin S. Pittman
1934-41, 1943-47
Marvin Pittman expanded the teaching program with cooperative agreements with area counties to conduct "demonstration classes" and seminars in rural education. He reorganized the faculty into divisions and created faculty rank by instructors, assistant professors, professors and administrative chairmen for each division. He instituted a successful drive for another name change reflecting a statewide mission: Georgia Teachers College. In a politically charged move by Gov. Eugene Talmadge, Pittman was dismissed in 1941, accused of "teaching communism" and "promoting racial equality." The result of his and other state university officials' dismissals was a loss of accreditation for all state colleges. Following the election of Ellis Arnall as governor, Pittman was reinstated.



Albert M. Gates
1941-43
Albert Gates replaced Marvin Pittman for the period between Pittman's dismissal and reinstatement. The combination of negative publicity and the World War II years brought on falling enrollment and shortage of state funding.



Judson C. Ward Jr.
1947-48
Judson Ward's tenure was brief, as he was named assistant chancellor of the University System of Georgia. Later accounts by his contemporaries indicated that, while he was extremely capable, his elevation was a politically expedient way of removing a young and aggressive president and avoiding a furor similar to the Pittman debacle.



E.C.J. Dickens
1909-1914



F.M. Rowan
1914-1919

These were the first three men to lead First District A&M School. They were not presidents, but principals. They dedicated their tenures to placing the new school on solid financial footing – always with strong support from the Bulloch County community.

...founders of a university



Zach S. Henderson
1948-68

Zach Henderson served 21 years as dean of the college. As president, the campus saw the addition of 16 buildings. The curriculum grew to include A.B. and B.S. degrees in English, history, biology and physical science, broadening the college's degree offerings beyond the preparation for teachers. In 1957 the regents granted G.T.C. its first graduate program, a master's in education. Henderson also saw the addition of the new Ed.S. degree and laid the groundwork for an organization restructuring. In December 1959, the college's name was changed to Georgia Southern College.



John O. Eidson
1968-71

John Eidson saw Henderson's plans of restructuring academic units into schools to completion with the creation of the Graduate School, School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education and the School of Business. During his three-year tenure, enrollment increased from 4,407 to 5,719. Eidson departed when he was appointed vice chancellor of the University System of Georgia.



Pope A. Duncan
1971-78

Pope Duncan further expanded academic offerings and outreach services of the college. He instituted the first consistent fund raising efforts. Duncan struck a balance between order and free expression with his deft handling of student protests. When Duncan left to accept the presidency of Stetson University, Nicholas W. Quick was appointed acting president while a national search was conducted.



Dale W. Lick
1978-86

Dale Lick drove the establishment of a new school to serve the nursing shortage in rural Georgia. He also supported the founding of the School of Technology and redoubled efforts to raise private funds. Lick saw the potential rallying effect of a football program and supported the reinstatement of the program. With football came the construction of a stadium. Lick pushed strongly for the elevation of the college to university status and supported cooperative engineering programs with Georgia Tech and the Ed.D. with the University of Georgia. The fall of 1981 saw the beginning of the honors program. His aggressive approach to university status brought about friction with the Board of Regents and his near-dismissal. Enrollment under Lick's guidance grew to more than 7,000.



Nicholas L. Henry
1987-98

Nicholas Henry built on the statewide grassroots support for university status and ushered Georgia Southern into its university era in 1990. During his tenure enrollment grew from 7,611 to 14,312, while raising admission standards. Georgia Southern began offering its first doctoral degree, the Ed.D. A building boom exploded on campus, with more than \$88 million in new construction during his tenure. He placed great emphasis on the appearance of the campus. Under the guidance of Henry, Georgia Southern became recognized as the preeminent state university in South Georgia in enrollment and degree offerings. He returned to the classroom as a professor of political science where he continues today. Provost Harry Carter served as acting president, 1998-99.



Bruce Grube
1999-present

Bruce Grube began his tenure by developing a strategic plan based on achieving academic distinction, supported by a student-centered culture, technological advancement, transcultural opportunities, public-private partnerships and the physical enhancement of the campus. During his administration, four academic buildings and three residence halls have been added. The average freshman SAT score has risen to more than 1100 and enrollment has jumped to more than 16,000. The University has added two new colleges – the College of Information Technology and the College of Public Health. Earlier this year, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reclassified Georgia Southern as a Doctoral-Research University, making it Georgia's only research university south of Atlanta.

FROM HUMBLE FARM BEGINNINGS...

The front page of the *Statesboro News* on November 30 proclaimed “Bulloch County must have that college.” A 300-acre tract of land was set aside for the campus. Community leaders pledged contributions, citizens donated to the cause and the local government agreed to provide utilities worth thousands.

The college was expected to bring innumerable benefits to the area – continuing education, agricultural expertise, cultural opportunities and the promise of prosperity. A mere 14 months later, the First District A&M School opened with three buildings, 15 students, and four faculty members.



Myrtle Smith toured 'Culture Hill in 1907 in one of the few automobiles in Bulloch County.

1906

By William Hatcher
Mayor of Statesboro

More than 100 years ago, the good people of this community agreed first in principle, and then in their actions, that a promising future was contingent upon having the First District A&M School established in Bulloch County. The very advantages of higher education would change the landscape, both figuratively and literally, of the region and its residents.

The competition was fierce. Other nearby counties – Chatham, Emanuel and Burke – were contenders, each with similar reasons. They all prepared their best offers, and all had their hopes pinned on a favorable outcome. The support of the Statesboro and Bulloch County community, in terms of land, dollars, utilities, and labor, had been pledged with only one goal in mind.

On December 1, 1906, our local delegation boarded the train for Savannah and presented our bid to the trustees at the DeSoto Hotel. After a long day of deliberation, the school was awarded to Bulloch County. The delegation returned to town that evening, and the train whistle signaled the good news to the waiting crowd. All the preparation, the effort, the support pointed to that day and to that destiny.

First District A&M had become the largest of the state's 11 such schools, but widespread crop failure, the war, and a lack of government funding reversed the fortunes of the community's farmers, and, in turn, those of the young institution. For those who could afford to attend, the curriculum evolved, adding electives and teacher training courses to the general courses already offered. During this decade, the school held its first commencement and completed construction on the women's dormitory and dining hall, and its athletics and academics teams competed for state awards.

1910s

By Bette Anderson Wood
Undersecretary of the Treasury of the United States, retired

With any organization or concerted effort, the backbone of the entity is tested, and strengthened, when it responds to adversity. For the First District A & M School, this era brought great success with citizens from near and far sending their children, their future generations, for an education beyond what they could receive in their hometown.

During the Great War, though, enrollment declined sharply and other local economic factors had forced administrators to face the almost certain closure of the school. Historical documents, letters, even promissory notes, however, show the unwavering commitment to keep the school's doors open.

The decisions and sacrifices of the school's leaders pulled it through these difficult times. Against incredible odds, the school not only survived and recovered, but it went on to thrive, attracting even greater numbers of students to campus.

When President Ernest Hollis took over the leadership of First District A&M, he inherited a campus that had fallen onto hard economic times and disrepair. His energy and vision would transform the secondary school into a college for training teachers. The transition continued as the teacher training courses developed into a collegiate curriculum.

Now for Georgia Normal School, Hollis solicited support for scholarships, established new programs, and started two campus publications, a newspaper and an annual.



Students in the 1920s, Huldah Cail Mingledorff (top) and her friends take time out to pose for a photo between classes.

ON THE COVER

Marjorie Boatright kept a scrapbook of her activities at Georgia Normal School, including grade reports, tickets and even gum wrappers. It is preserved in the Library's Special Collections.





Class photo for 1920 on the steps of West Hall.

1920s

By Dale Lick
 President, Georgia Southern University
 1978 – 86

When you look at the history of Georgia Southern University, you can certainly identify individual moments of greatness and the impact of those moments on the institution.

The decade of the 1920s, though, set a course for change in South Georgia for everything that followed. The leaders of this institution made a bold move to transform the entire curriculum. A broad curriculum spanning secondary coursework, agriculture, homemaking, and industrial training were shifted into one that emphasized teacher education.

The decision and the results were immensely successful – successful because this paradigm shift, this change in the very mission of education for South Georgia – created new and better opportunities for students and citizens alike. This institution in the 1920s had provided immeasurable benefits to the community, even in its brief existence. And now with its graduates well prepared and in position to teach in schools across the state, the school was being recognized as one of Georgia's driving educational forces.

President Marvin Pittman's arrival in Collegeboro in 1934 started an academic renaissance on campus. Pittman's student-centered approach to learning and progressive curriculum established South Georgia Teachers College as the preeminent school for training educators. As its reputation grew, so did the college. Pittman organized the college into seven areas of specialization and added fine and applied art, music, and industrial education to the students' coursework.

During his seven-year presidency, new construction, including the Rosenwald Library and the Little Store/ Blue Tide, doubled the number of buildings on campus, extracurricular activities thrived, and students earned degrees in record numbers.

1930s

By Jack Averitt '44
Dean Emeritus, College of Graduate Studies

Marvin Summers Pittman succeeded Guy Herbert Wells as president of South Georgia Teachers College on July 1, 1934. He was the first president to hold a Ph.D.

A renowned scholar, his expertise was teacher training. He developed the curriculum and formulated the plan and implementation that became a model for major institutions of higher learning. He brought his program here, leading a fledgling teachers' college to become the preeminent institution for training teachers in Georgia and in the southeast. In 1939, the regents acknowledged the school's prestigious status and changed its name from South Georgia Teachers College to Georgia Teachers College.

Pittman was a visionary. He possessed a unique ability to see the invisible. Beyond his day's horizon, he developed ideas and translated them into a reality that became an integral part of, and a significant contribution to, the foundation upon which this university has continued to build.



A girl's physical education class hits the field for recreation behind East Hall in the 1920s.

Newly named Georgia Teachers College had just graduated its first class under its new moniker, then braced itself for both World War II and the political war that Governor Eugene Talmadge was waging on President Pittman.

Pittman would return as president in 1943, and the college would once again flourish, especially as many servicemen and women who returned home from overseas duty sparked an increase in enrollment.

1940s

By Charles P. Olliff Jr.
Member, Founding Committee, Georgia Southern University
Foundation

When Dr. Pittman was removed from office in 1941 – his contract not renewed by the Board of Regents through somewhat questionable means – the College lost its direction.

Not only was the initial effect on the College devastating, but aftershocks kept the faculty and even the students from regaining a solid footing. A tribute to the character of the College, "The Peoples' School" still served its mission and its students, even as it seemed certain that its stature would be diminished.

Dr. Pittman was reinstated as president two years later and diligently went about trying to return the Teachers College to the level of prominence it had enjoyed. Even after his retirement in 1947, Pittman influenced the fate of the college with enterprising programs and forward thinking.



FROM THE COVER
The Oglethorpe and Stephens Literary Societies competed for a silver cup from 1916-36. The cup was retired when the groups merged.



The Marvin Pittman Laboratory School continued the tradition of experiential teacher training begun in the University's earliest days until it was closed in 1997.

1950s

By Barbara Christmas '79
CEO, Tech High Foundation, retired

Georgia Teachers College had established itself as the destination for teacher education. Now, in the early 1950s, TC alumni were encouraging the College to offer graduate programs.

The institution had been contributing great educators to the region and the state but was now being called upon to provide a higher dimension of learning.

The proposal for graduate education didn't receive approval on its first attempt. The regents, though, recognized the College's commitment to scholarly excellence and approved additional degree programs. Students with diversified interests discovered the character of a true teaching institution, now with a range of career options.

These new degree offerings broadened the educational experience and identity of Georgia Teachers College. By the end of the decade, the first graduate program would be put in place and the institution would grow into its new role as a comprehensive college.

New buildings and new majors appeared on campus as the institution embraced its mission as a comprehensive college. Over the previous eight years, the Board of Regents had rejected the College's requests to add graduate-level programs for a variety of reasons. Then, in 1957, Georgia Teachers College became the first college in South Georgia authorized to offer a master's degree – the Master of Education. This was the key to making a better life for South Georgians, and meant that the College would carry the torch for higher education and graduate education in the region.

FROM THE COVER

The campus' night watchman carried a master clock on his rounds. The clock is housed in the collections of the University Museum.



With a new name, a new mascot, millions of dollars in new construction, and a new fundraising effort, Georgia Southern College was changing, in academic mission and in physical size. Twelve hundred students opened the 1960 school year, and a building boom on campus reflected the addition of numerous undergraduate disciplines and graduate degree programs.

1960s

By Albert Roesel '64
Former Georgia Southern University Foundation Board Member

As the college grew, every corner of the campus experienced success – new academic programs were added, endowed professors joined the faculty, and even the baseball team could boast a national championship. The list just went on and on.

It became apparent that growth would beget more growth and that the current level of resources might be enough to sustain the basics, but other funding would be necessary to help provide scholarships for students and enhance the college's capabilities and offerings.

Conversations were directed to the needs of Georgia Southern – over and above what the state would provide. A group of community leaders formed the Foundation to support the initiatives of the college, with present needs considered, and the foresight to plan for the future.

Buildings continued to spring up on campus as more students arrived in Statesboro. Professors shared their enthusiasm for learning and discovery with students, and students, in turn, integrated their ideas and spirit into every aspect of their collegiate experience.

Sweetheart Circle was the center of most activities for students as they debated and discussed the issues of the day. And they enjoyed more social pursuits with student organizations and events, concerts, and the fads that defined the times.



The decade of the '70s brought an expanded role on campus for Greek organizations, which enhanced the collegiate atmosphere of the campus.

1970s

By Rod Meadows '71
Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman

The growth, and the impact of the growth of the 1960s, propelled the College into the 1970s. As students, we were ready to embrace it all – the freedom of college life, and the energy of being with and around other people our age.

It was the time in our life when everything was ahead of us. One of the hallmarks of this decade was the interaction between the professors and the students. The professors provided opportunities for students to explore, to get involved with projects and activities.

That encouragement, the caring nature of the professors, opened up a new whole world of possibilities, and helped us develop into the people we could be.

This was the power of the times – the confidence, the empowerment, and an awakening – when we realized that our education was more than lectures and books and tests. Education was an agent for change.

This is when, as students, we really found our voices and created awareness about issues that were important to us.

With our education, because of our education, we now had the mindset, the enlightenment, and the heart...to be advocates for change.



In December 1986 the campus was celebrating the back-to-back national football championships of Erk's Eagles.

In 1981, Coach Erk Russell stood before the community and the media, introduced as the new head football coach of the Georgia Southern Eagles. The College had suspended its athletics teams 40 years before because of World War II, and had revived all the other teams except for football. Now, football was back.

The Eagles held their first practice with 134 walk-ons just four months after Erk arrived in Statesboro. In 1983, the Eagles played their first schedule against all four-year schools and, the following year, their first game in Paulson Stadium. Unexpectedly, the Eagles won the 1985 title game on a remarkable pass from Tracy Ham and a catch by Frankie Johnson. The thrilling come-from-behind ending turned out to be just the beginning.

1980s

By Tracy Ham '95
Sports Broadcaster

For me, Georgia Southern is more than a single moment or a memory. There are hundreds of snapshots in my mind of the victories, the friendships and graduation.

Georgia Southern was a life-changing experience for me. Everyone has their own story, when they just knew that they had found something special here. For me, it was the opportunity to play football with the promise of a first-rate education and the dream of winning championships.

Those championships are such an example of Georgia Southern's achievements. This community dared to excel, not just in football, but in becoming the place for people to pursue their dreams through higher education. This community of leaders, students, alumni, and professors all challenged the notion of what was deemed impossible, and then made it happen, just one more time.

As the clock struck midnight on July 1, 1990, thousands of people had gathered at the main entrance, fireworks boomed in the sky, and a newly unveiled sign proclaimed what had seemed impossible only the year before: Georgia Southern University.

1990s

By Arthur Gignilliat, Regent,
University System of Georgia
1983-1993

After years of petitioning the University System of Georgia for elevated status, the time had come for Georgia Southern, now officially the first University south of Atlanta. The Board of Regents had voted in favor of Georgia Southern, and it was not only a victory for the institution but a major accomplishment for South Georgia and its citizens.

Until 1990, the state's public universities were all located in North Georgia, and it became time to improve access and advance higher education opportunities. Georgia Southern was a natural choice, but the final decision would be in the hands of the Board of Regents. So the quest for university status really started with serious discussions in the 1970s and continued throughout most of the 1980s. And during this time the college administration built support from campus, from the community, and from regional and state leaders. And when the Board of Regents did approve university status, the designation was much more than just a name change: It opened the doors of opportunity, long absent in South Georgia, and ensured that Georgia Southern University could and would serve as a beacon for higher education in this growing region of our state.

The vision of a university of national status and development of the Strategic Plan would define and guide Georgia Southern as it moved into the 21st century. With its central theme of academic distinction, the Strategic Plan would create the framework for student engagement, partnership, and the campus environment.

As student SAT scores continue to rise well above state and national averages, the University attracts students to a beautiful campus that offers them personal attention in the classroom, opportunities for scholarship and research activity, and a collegiate experience they will remember for the rest of their lives.

2000s

By Linda Bleicken
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The continuous pursuit of academic distinction will shape the Georgia Southern of today and of tomorrow.

Our tradition as an excellent teaching campus now intersects with our designation as a national research institution. We are creating a new Georgia Southern University.

This is the University of the future: a University that accepts and answers the challenges of a global community, that teaches our students to think critically and lead effectively. A University that provides the resources and state-of-the-art facilities for faculty and students to explore and achieve.

The mission of Georgia Southern University is one of teaching, scholarship, and service. Commencement is our affirmation of what we do... as we witness not the end of an academic career, but the beginning of a lifetime of learning and achievement.



FROM THE COVER

A copy of the student newspaper the *George-Anne* celebrating the vote that gave Georgia Southern College university status.

Icons of an institution

By Kelley M. Callaway

Every college has its traditions, its symbols, its icons. People, places and things that represent the institution. Images that when brought to mind cause alumni to reflect on their days at their alma mater. Georgia Southern is no different. From the reflecting ball of the 1920s to the TKE rock in the '80s, the students and alumni of Georgia Southern University remember their college days through the images and objects of their university.



REFLECTING BALL
From the earliest days of the institution, a reflecting ball sat perched behind the administration building. The shiny orb became such a familiar sight to First District A&M students that the first editors of the school yearbook decided to name the publication after the ball. In 1925, the *Reflector* was born and early editions of the book featured some reference to the original reflecting ball.

'T' IS FOR TEACHERS

Starting in 1932, the University's athletics teams became known as the Teachers, giving way only to the new Eagles mascot in 1960 when Georgia Teachers College became Georgia Southern College.

FOUNTAIN

In 1933, while the state celebrated the bicentennial, President Guy Wells collected stones from historic Georgia locations to build a fountain. For 50 years, the fountain, which looked more like a well, stood in the background of campus pictures until it was torn down sometime in the early '80s.

EAGLE ON SIGNPOST

This iconic structure of the 1960s and '70s greeted students, faculty, staff and guests to campus. But when the Eagle was stolen, the campus was annoyed with the great Eagle-napping of 1970, as evident by stories and cartoons in the *George-Anne*.

TKE ROCK

Tau Kappa Epsilon thought they had a great idea when they placed a large decorated rock in the middle of campus. The fraternity got more than they bargained for when rival fraternities started attacking the rock with sledgehammers and giving it a new paint job every few days. Students in the '70s began looking forward to seeing what the TKE rock would look like after each new reincarnation.

BEAUTIFUL EAGLE CREEK

Whether a sports fan or not, most Georgia Southern alumni equate their alma mater with gnats, football and Erk Russell. The bald-headed coach was recognized on and off campus, and his passing was so mourned it required a football stadium to hold all who came to offer him tribute. One of the symbols of his contribution to Georgia Southern is Beautiful Eagle Creek, a drainage ditch beside the football practice field that Russell claimed contained magical water that would bring his team victory. It worked, and Russell's teams won three national championships from Pocatello, Idaho, to Statesboro while sprinkling Eagle Creek water before them.



SWEETHEART CIRCLE

The center of campus has developed over the years into the heart of campus. In the days of First District A&M and Georgia Teachers College, all campus buildings extended off the circle. In the '40s and '50s, rules dictated that men and women could only gather in certain locations and couples began meeting on the lawn in the middle of campus. Hence, the area became known as Sweetheart Circle. Many romances have blossomed on the lawn, and more than one couple became engaged on the grass of the circle.

GSC/GSU BUSHES

The heart of campus has evolved over the years, and in the 1980s the entrance to Sweetheart Circle welcomed visitors with bushes in the shape of GSC. When the college finally achieved university status in 1990, the C was remolded to form a 'U.'

COLUMNS ON THE BYPASS

The marble and brick columns flanking the Akins Boulevard Entrance to campus started a trend when they were first built. Now all entrances to campus have brick columns. The Akins Boulevard columns commemorate each year that the institution underwent a name change.

SIX FLAGS OVER GEORGIA SOUTHERN

The flagpole at Paulson Stadium boasts six NCAA I-AA National Championship flags from championships in 1985, '86, '89, '90, '99 and 2000.





Former Georgia Southern custodian Mose Bass gives a wake up call to one of the residents of Cone Hall.

Approved by Mose Bass

Confidante and human alarm clock was a unique figure for two decades

The University of Texas had its Madame Hipple and Michigan State had 'Lash' Larrowe, but no campus legend has been more fondly regarded than Georgia Southern's Mose Bass.

Bass was custodian in Cone Hall for most of the 1950s and '60s.

"Every morning for a year or two, Mose would come open my private dorm door and wake me up at about 7:30 except on the weekends," said Larry Gordon ('63). "I would fuss about it, but it didn't make any difference – even if I had all afternoon classes. He was always the same: 'Git up, Baby! Git up! You got to become somebody! It's later than you think!'

"I probably would not have passed if Mose

had not been persistent."

Ralph Bailey ('59) was another Cone Hall resident who sought Mose's help.

"One night I was going to be studying for a major exam," he said. "Before Mose got off for the afternoon I said, 'I need a wake up call when you get in tomorrow morning. I'm going to be studying late and may not want to get up so don't pay any attention to what I'm liable to tell you.' He said, 'Okay, Baby, I'll get you up.'

As it turned out, my studying was going so well that I just kept at it until about 4 a.m. At 6, here he comes. 'Time to get up, Baby.' 'That's okay, Mose. I studied all night long...' 'Don't tell me that, Baby. You told me to get you up and that's what I'm gonna do.' He got me up alright, saw me down to the shower,

and wouldn't leave the door until I guaranteed I was up for the day. I can't remember the test, what subject it was in, or what grade I made on it, but I'll never forget Mose Bass – a great man to be sure and with such a caring heart. I've thought of him often over the years and remember him fondly."

Bass also relished his role as a confidante and advisor to the Cone Hall boys. He also gave his stamp of approval to everything from bulletin board postings to yearbooks.

"Everything of any value had to bear the inscription, 'Approved by Mose Bass,'" said Bailey.

Bass retired from Georgia Southern in 1967. He passed shortly thereafter and was buried in Screven County.

Words of wisdom

Politicians, actors and astronauts among campus visitors



President Marvin Pittman, right, played host to many dignitaries, but none more well known than inventor and industrialist Henry Ford.

Many alumni recall visits by famed performers from the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra to Bob Hope to the Rolling Stones, but what of those who inspired students with their unique knowledge or insight?

Hundreds of distinguished lecturers of local and national stature have shared their expertise with students across Georgia Southern's first 10 decades. One such lecturer made a distinct and lasting impression on the late physician Frank Quattlebaum ('35).

In an interview shortly before his death, Dr. Quattlebaum told the story of attending a lecture his senior year by the esteemed scientist George Washington Carver. Merely allowing the African-American Carver to speak on campus was a bold statement during the time of legal racial segregation. But speak he did,

and by accounts of those who were there, was warmly received and left the crowd in awe of his powerful intellect and his humble, yet riveting, presence.

"Certain things in life, I think, influence you," said Quattlebaum. "I sat in my seat and was just sort of stunned and I thought to myself, 'My God. How many George Washington Carvers are there in the South? How many have we missed? What have we done?'"

Sixty four years later, Quattlebaum closed his career as a doctor and went back to school, earning a B.A. in philosophy and ethics. He credited the Carver experience as one of the reasons his intellectual curiosity never waned. "I think that really made a difference in my life," he said. "It made my interest in philosophy more intense."

HISTORIC CAMPUS VISITORS

Through the years, dozens of campus visitors have brought knowledge and inspiration to students.

Dame Judith Anderson, actress
 Maya Angelou, writer
 George W. Bush, U.S. President
 Erskine Caldwell, author
 Scott Carpenter, Mercury astronaut
 Jimmy Carter, U.S. President
 John Ciardi, poet
 James Dickey, author
 Will Durant, philosopher/author
 Abba Eban, Israeli ambassador
 Sam Ervin, U.S. senator
 Henry Ford, industrialist
 Jim Fowler, wildlife educator
 John Glenn, Mercury astronaut
 Hal Holbrook, actor
 James Humes, actor
 James Kennedy, director of Kennedy Space Center
 Bernard Marcus, founder of Home Depot
 Jessica Mitford, author
 Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Supreme Court justice
 David Oreck, businessman
 Richard Halliburton, explorer
 James J. Kirkpatrick, newspaper columnist
 Ralph McGill, newspaper editor
 Margaret Mead, anthropologist
 Harry Morgan, radio comedian
 Ralph Nader, consumer advocate
 Sam Nunn, U.S. senator
 Pat Paulsen, TV comedian
 Drew Pearson, newspaper columnist
 Dean Rusk, U.S. secretary of state
 Richard B. Russell, U.S. senator
 Horst Schulze, CEO of Ritz-Carlton
 Erich Segal, screenwriter
 Clarence Thomas, U.S. Supreme Court justice
 Ted Turner, cable TV pioneer
 Louis Untermeyer, poet
 Tom Wicker, newspaper editor



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni of Georgia Southern University:
I am delighted to send my heartiest congratulations on the observance of your Centennial year.

Georgia Southern's first century has been an amazing journey, not only as a witness to the awesome events seen by our parents and grandparents, but as one of helping to bring about many of the advances Georgians enjoy today.

The University's leadership – and that of your alumni – in the fields of education, technology, business, health and the humanities has been and continues to be an inspiration to all who strive for growth and positive change.

As you begin the year-long celebration of Georgia Southern's Centennial, please know that I, as your governor, see the University as a leader, innovator and an invaluable asset to our University System. I look forward to working with each of you in the future for a better Georgia.

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue

100 years.

A tradition of progress.

A tomorrow of promise.

Congratulations
are in order...



JIMMY CARTER

December 2006

To the Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff
of Georgia Southern University

Rosalynn and I are pleased to congratulate you on your centennial anniversary! During its first century, Georgia Southern University has distinguished itself by continuously meeting the educational needs of its students. From its beginning as a district A&M school, the university has progressed to become a leading institution in the coastal southeast. Thousands of men and women have benefited from the Georgia Southern experience – outstanding teaching combined with real-world research opportunities. As you embark on your second century of service, I am confident you will continue to excel.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia

CARL E. SANDERS
SUITE 5200
600 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308

Georgia Southern University
PO Box 8055
Statesboro GA 30460

RE: Centennial Celebration

I offer my hearty congratulations to Georgia Southern University on the occasion of its Centennial Landmark Celebration of 100th years of service to the people of our state.

There has been tremendous growth in programs and facilities at Georgia Southern in the last 15 or 10 years as the University has assumed an increasingly prominent position in Georgia's system of higher education.

I am proud to have played a role in supporting new facilities when I was Governor, and I also have ties to the University in that both my wife Betty Foy Sanders, and our granddaughter Caroline, attended Georgia Southern.

We are proud of Georgia Southern and the role that it has played in our State. It has exceeded my greatest expectations.

Congratulations and best wishes on your next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Sanders

CES:db

Come together

When it comes to alumni loyalty and student pride, nothing creates common ground like tradition

A DAY FOR SOUTHERN

Each year businesses and individuals in the Bulloch County/Statesboro community raise funds for the development of the University on one specific day – the second Tuesday in September. The first “Day for Southern” campaign was held in 1973 and raised a total of \$10,500. The funds that are raised on A Day for Southern go toward scholarships, faculty development, athletics and the University’s outreach and cultural programs.



BLUE-WHITE FOOTBALL GAME

During the final spring football scrimmage for the Eagles, family, friends and fans watch the blue and white teams challenge each other to conclude spring practice. Honorary coaches handle the sideline duties after the players have been selected in a draft or the football teams compete based on current status.

FIRST NIGHT OUT

Each summer, SOAR sessions bring incoming freshmen together for Orientation. On the “first night out” after a full day of information sessions, the freshmen are invited to gather at the Recreation Activity Center to meet new friends, eat pizza and participate in games, events and karaoke.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS COFFEEHOUSE SERIES

The first Wednesday of every month students at Georgia Southern University gather at Russell Union for poetry, music, movies, or guest speakers and artists. A chance for students to enjoy a study break, visit with friends or perform on stage.

GEORGE-ANNE

Started in 1927, the newspaper and student media serves the Georgia Southern community with the latest news on campus, world events and entertainment. “Covering the campus “like a swarm of gnats,” the *George-Anne* publishes four days a week. Named in part for the institution’s architecture and a play on a male and female name, the *George-Anne* has traditionally dominated the state’s college press association awards.

GEORGIA ... SOUTHERN ...

A very loud reminder for Eagle opponents, the chant “Georgia,” usually started by the student section, receives the reply “Southern” from the home side during football and basketball games. The exchange gets continually louder until the entire Eagle crowd participates. Another chant, “Whose House?” receives an equally enthusiastic “Our House!”

HOMECOMING

Since the return of the football program, alumni and current students come together one week out of the year to enjoy school spirit as the University hosts numerous events including GSU Idol, the Doodah step show, the Homecoming Parade and crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen. Each year the theme changes, but the entertainment and festive atmosphere are guaranteed. Prior to the re-establishment of the football program, Homecoming was celebrated in the wintertime, and the festivities culminated in events centered around basketball in the Alumni Gym and, later, Hanner.

SOARING EAGLE AT COMMENCEMENT

At the close of the spring commencement ceremony, in Paulson Stadium, the Alma Mater’s final words cue the flight of the on-loan American bald eagle Challenger and all eyes turn to the majestic mascot. The eagle soars above Georgia Southern graduates and provides them with an inspirational moment they will never forget. Georgia Southern’s own eagle, Freedom, is in training to take over the duties.

WATERMELON CUTTINGS

Offering up icy cold watermelon for the last 59 years, Georgia Southern’s presidents have helped serve watermelon to students, faculty and staff near the campus lakes. A tradition started by the late President Zach Henderson, the watermelon cuttings continue throughout the summer months, providing a respite from the humid South Georgia weather.

LANTERN WALK

A decades-long tradition, the lantern walks ended in the 1960s. Graduating seniors would don their caps and gowns and traverse the campus at sunset, carrying a lantern before them. Moving from building to building, select members would address the group with memories from each building they visited.



A higher calling

Author recounts University's 100-year rise in *The Southern Century*

In more than 300 pages and with more than 500 rare images, University historian Del Presley has chronicled the growth and development of our University in his Centennial history book, *The Southern Century – Georgia Southern University 1906-2006*.

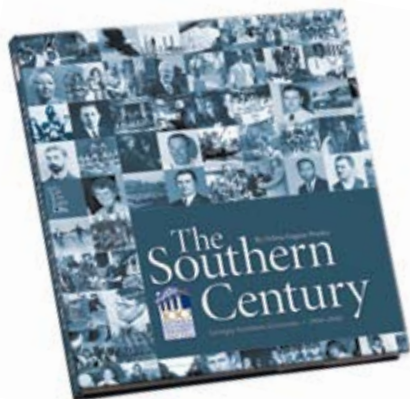
Presley spent three years collecting interviews, stories, memories and images.

From academics and student life to the administration and community, *The Southern Century* captures the spirit of a progressive institution and the impact it has had on the lives of its people and region.

The book recounts legends as told by alumni who were “there when it happened,” and introduces many others that have been seldom or never told, like how the fun of freshman initiation suddenly became a very serious matter:



PRESLEY



The book is available through the University Store by calling 1-800-861-7059 or by visiting the store or its Web site at <http://www.gsustore.com>.



Hazing – from paddling to cow-tipping – is today near-universally banned from college campuses. Not so many years ago it was not only widely accepted as a rite of passage, it was just as universally claimed as a right by upperclassmen.

EXCERPT FROM

THE SOUTHERN CENTURY – GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 1906-2006

Since the 1920s, students had begun college life as “Rats.” In the earliest days, upperclassmen subjected freshmen to humiliating rites of initiation throughout the year. In the 1930s, the hazing ended at the Thanksgiving football game. From September through November, upperclassmen, without warning, could haul freshmen out of bed and conduct impromptu sessions of rat court.

In addition to college-approved hazing of freshmen, some clubs added their own requirements. Harold Tillman, a student from Tattnall County, underwent an initiation that almost cost him his life in May 1943. His superiors blindfolded him and drove him to a remote farm in northern Bulloch County. Unfamiliar with the territory, he spent the night in a vehicle parked there.

When Tillman sought directions the next morning, the farm’s owner, Bennie Hendrix, fired a shotgun at the defenseless young man, staggering him. Although he held his hands over his head and pleaded, the farmer shot him a second time, leaving him severely wounded and bleeding.

Thanks to a neighbor’s intervention and excellent emergency care at the hospital, Tillman survived. Campus clubs immediately halted this form of hazing.

Looking forward

From ag-school beginnings to the forefront of technology, Georgia Southern opens a new century with a heritage of progress

By Stephen P. Ward

The future just isn't what it used to be.

That bit of wisdom reminds us, perhaps, of the importance of keeping our focus on the here and now. Still, having a sense of what is yet to be is a trait that sets us humans apart from other living things.

The appearance of the First District A&M School came amid an era of excited prognostication. Those early days helped shape the institution's identity as a visionary place. In 1906 we were, after all, still starting a new century, one that had been greeted with high hopes and a host of naïve predictions about the technology that would bring those hopes to fruition:

"By 2000, every river or creek with any suitable fall will be equipped with water motors, turning dynamos, making electricity," declared a forecast in a 1900 edition of the Ladies' Home Journal.

"Man will not fly for 50 years," prophesied Wilbur Wright in 1901, apparently wholly unaware that he and his brother Orville would swoop over the dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, just two years later.

Just as often, a belief that our country had reached the height of technological sophistication:

"That the automobile has practically reached the limit of its development is suggested by the fact that during the past year no improvements of a radical nature have been introduced," observed Scientific American in 1909.

In the midst of this sense of progress and good fortune, Statesboro, like much of the nation in 1906, had its sights set on modernization, and being awarded the A&M School was a major community victory.

"Statesboro's leaders fought hard to win the state-supported A&M, and they knew it could be developed into a college," said historian and retired Georgia Southern Professor Del Presley. "Statesboro had visions of becoming a significant inland agricultural city."

The early hopes for Statesboro and the college proved to be off the mark, however, when world events forced local leaders to shift their vision.

"By 1915 things were changing in a dramatic way, and then, after the first World War, soldiers wanted more than to return to life on the farm," Presley noted. "Fortunately, the leaders at this institution had added teacher education to the curriculum, and so, by 1924, we made the transition from agriculture to a teacher's college."

By the 1950s, Georgia Teachers College was flourishing in its purpose. The institution had added enough other degrees so that, in 1959, the state's Board of Regents granted the change in status to Georgia Southern College.

"I was part of that wave of veterans from World War II and then Korea that made the school grow," said Larry Hyde ('58), who remembers that the name change, the year after his graduation, came only after much effort in Atlanta.

"The people who did the thinking didn't have the forethought to project what has actually happened since, with the growth through state college and state university status. The politics at that time prevented anything that would be perceived as taking away students from UGA and Georgia Tech," Hyde said.

Hyde recalled that much of the on-campus talk of the future, during his days at Teachers College, centered not on the industrial advancements of the modern world but on politics and social change.

"It was right after the Supreme Court ruling on school segregation," he recalled. "In my classes, most people were in favor of racial integration. As future teachers, we knew that education was the key for all people to succeed. The Board of Regents was opposed to integration, but that didn't stop our thinking about the importance of the issue."

Still, throughout much of the rest of the nation at mid-century, sights were set all the more on a future in which technology would

play a growing role. As always, many predictions contained inaccuracies that hindsight finds curious.

"Television won't be able to hold onto any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night," said motion picture producer Darryl Zanuck in 1946.

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons," reported Popular Mechanics in 1949.

"The world potential market for copying machines is 5,000 at most," said IBM to the future founders of Xerox in 1959.

Today, as the curtain opens on Georgia Southern University's second century, the school's emphasis on progress is hard to miss.

"Since I came as an undergrad in '98, I've seen Georgia Southern greatly enhance its technology. We've embraced what's going on in the world," said Jessica Lanham, who is pursuing her master's degree in English literature.

"Technology is the great equalizer in education," Lanham said. "I'm studying classical literature in the British Renaissance, and in a lot of ways today's technology is what makes my studies work. I can see pages of a Shakespearean quarto via the Internet, and it's also preserved for generations of future scholars."

Historian Presley said the University's development of one of the nation's first accredited colleges of information technology "reflects the age-old confidence in the ability of the people of this institution to move this state forward."

"Georgia Southern has what it takes to be on the leading edge of change. Not many institutions have that past, and I know there are many that would like to inherit this task from us, and take it away from us, but I think there's something in the blood, something in the water, that causes that to happen here," Presley said.

Lanham said she hopes her future holds a position as a professor of literature. As for



“Georgia Southern has what it takes to be on the leading edge of change. Not many institutions have that past, and I know there are many that would like to inherit this task from us, and take it away from us, but I think there’s something in the blood, something in the water, that causes that to happen here.”

Del Presley
historian and retired Georgia Southern professor

her university, she said the new century holds great promise.

“As a liberal arts person, I’d like to see more of an emphasis on what it is that makes us human – what differentiates us from other creatures,” she said.

“I also believe, though, that engineering will likely become more important in this next century, and also addressing population growth and sustainability. Georgia Southern is in a good position to do all of that,” Lanham added.

Although the University has moved far away from the small-college days of the 1950s, Larry Hyde said that he, too, is excited about the next 100 years.

“As long as we keep going like we’re going, it’s a great future,” he said. “Look at things like the new College of Public Health, and we’re amazing in athletics, and now we hear so much more about research.”

“We just really need to keep pushing to get out the word about Georgia Southern.”

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Librarians Ann Hamilton and Fred Smith explore the new automated book retrieval system in the newly expanded Henderson Library.



FRANK FORTUNE

Stephen Clark ('98), writes and produces promotions for in-house presentations for The Weather Channel.

» ALUMNI PROFILE

Forecast: High ratings, cool shows

Alumnus Stephen Clark promotes viewer interest in TV weather programming

By Michelle Groover

Weather is unpredictable and may change at any minute, but one Georgia Southern grad is always ready.

As a writer and producer with The Weather Channel, Stephen Clark ('98) writes and produces promotions for in-house presentations. "We're pretty much the in-house advertising agency for The Weather Channel," he said.

A typical day for Clark begins with checking e-mails and working on the current promotion, but just like the weather, every day is different. He might be working on a project to be unveiled months down the road. "But if there was a hurricane or other weather-related breaking news, I would begin working on commercials

regarding that," he said.

When working on a commercial to promote The Weather Channel, Clark writes the script, suggests music and works with the graphic designers to select different visual elements that fit with the network as a whole. "Our current campaign commercial features some of our on-air talent that was shot in different locations talking about hurricane season," he explained. "I had a hand in it from the concept to coordinating the shots.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of working at The Weather Channel is knowing that we're helping people in some small way. When a hurricane is bearing down on the coast, people look to us to give them information on what to do. When they evacuate, they turn to us to

find out when it's safe to go back and how it will look," he added. "Having a hand in that is really gratifying."

Prior to working at The Weather Channel, Clark was with CNN doing promotional items. "I would be in charge of a crew going to an event to get footage that would be used in promos," he said. "I was also involved in breaking news and live events."

For the Canton, Ga., resident, Georgia Southern is near and dear to his heart. "The professors at Georgia Southern were excellent and really prepared me to go into this field," he said. "Dr. Reed Smith was a wonderful professor. He helped me get an internship with CNN, which led to a job two weeks after I graduated."

1950s

Glenda Spurlock Mead ('53) and her husband, Troy, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They make their home in Porterville, Calif. She would enjoy hearing from friends at gmead@charter.net.

Clifford O'Neal ('57) lives in Lauderhill, Fla., and can be reached at cao.8@comcast.net.

Julian L. Tucker ('54) and his wife, **Martha Dean** (Wright '72), are retired and living in Jesup, Ga. He served as pastor to 10 different United Methodist Churches in his career, then became a part-time pastor at several others and is now serving Akin Memorial in Wayne County. Martha Dean taught in Georgia schools for 27 years until her retirement 12 years ago. They have four grown children and may be reached at julian@bellsouth.net.

Barbara Phillips Wicker ('58) and her husband, Frank, live in Cape Coral, Fla.

1960s

Don Points ('65) of Henderson, Nev., came out of retirement in 2004 to join Solargenix Energy as its chief financial officer.

Frances Ward Bird ('66) and her husband, Graham, live in Fernandina Beach, Fla. They can be reached at birdf243@bellsouth.net.

Barry Martin ('69) is a retired research chemist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He and his wife, Jean, live in Mebane, N.C., and would enjoy hearing from friends at sjeanmartin@prodigy.net.

1970s

Dianne Cantrell Dye ('70) and her husband, Stephen, live in Elberton, Ga.

Kathy Smith Fox ('70) is in her 25th year of ownership of The Fine Store, a women's

apparel shop in Dalton, Ga. She writes, "Our son, Evan, is a 2005 graduate of Georgia Southern and still lives in Statesboro. We enjoy visiting him and taking in a ballgame. The changes to the campus are astounding!" Kathy and her husband, Gary, live in Rocky Face, Ga.

Charles Webb ('70) was recently named the superintendent of schools by the Appling County Board of Education. He and his wife, Lynda, reside in Baxley, Ga.

Loraine Pratt Nelson ('71) is principal of Oak Hill Elementary School in Jacksonville, Fla. She also serves on the Florida Association of School Administrators Board as its Elementary District III director. "I have always loved teaching and learning and consider myself a learning leader," she wrote.

Glenda Cannon Field ('74) and her husband, Richard, live in Augusta, Ga.

Thomas "Bubba" Renfrow Jr. ('74) was named manager of real estate sales/managing broker for Trupp-Hodnett Inc., a ResortQuest Real Estate Company on Saint Simons Island, Ga. He has been with the organization since 2003 after spending 25 years in the food service sales and sales management area. He and his wife, Susan, have two sons, Thomas III and Blair.

Jody Stubbs ('74) was elected to the board of directors of Sea Island Bank in Statesboro. He is also president of Stubbs Oil Company, a wholesale oil distributor based in Bulloch County. He and his wife, Beth, have five children.

Beverly A. Vaughn ('77) was honored with a National Leadership Award from the Republican Congressional Committee for her work as founder and CEO of the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP). She has also been named honorary chair of the Business Advisory Committee for the State of Georgia to the Republican Congressional Committee in Washington, D.C. The AAASP has served physically and visually impaired Georgia students since 2001.

Anna S. Paine ('79) is completing the requirements for a doctoral degree in organization change from Pepperdine University. Her dissertation is titled "Relationship Between the Organization Change Practitioner's Self As Instrument Skill Set and Meditation Practice."

1980s

Jim Pedrick ('80) is sales manager for Lafarge Cement in Savannah. "I've been in the same position for 21 years," he writes, "and our company has done many projects at GSU. We still attend all football games." He and his wife, **Marianna** (Gleaton), who also attended the University, have a son, Thomas, a Georgia Southern freshman. Jim would like to locate a couple of classmates, Brian Schultz and Robin Peck. He may be reached via e-mail at tmjpedrick@aol.com.

Joyce Kirkland Hodges-Hite ('81) and her husband, **Jim** ('76), live in Millen, Ga. In May she received the statewide For Service With Youth Award from the National Retired Teachers Association. Joyce ran her first 50-mile race in January. Jim was named All-American in the age group 70-74 in duathlon by *Inside Triathlete* magazine. The couple can be reached at jimjoyce34@bellsouth.net.

Karen Bishop ('82) is exceptional children program administrator and is assigned to six schools for the Guilford County (N.C.) School System. She lives in Summerfield, N.C.

Kenneth D. Enzor ('82) is a colonel in the United States Marine Corps and was recently named Logistics Base Barstow's new commander. "I can truly say that I'm pumped up, I'm excited and I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and be part of the team," he said.

Drew Standridge ('82) is a pastor at Wakulla United Methodist Church in Crawfordville, Fla. He was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church. "This is much like a teacher or professor getting tenure," he wrote. He and his wife, Karen, can be reached at buckhannonmountaineer@yahoo.com.

It's your call...

...and we hope the answer is yes! A student volunteer will soon be calling you for our annual Phonathon. Please respond generously and support your University as we celebrate our Centennial year!

» ALUMNI PROFILE

Civic duty

Castanien seeks involvement in the political process

By Phillip Brown

For most graduates, money is the primary motivation when searching for that all-important first job. Matthew Castanien isn't like most graduates.

Instead of the "suit-and-tie" position offered him in downtown Atlanta, Castanien ('04) opted for a small town in Montana and a job with the nonprofit organization Project Vote Smart.

"I really liked Project Vote Smart's mission," Castanien said. "It's a nonpartisan group trying to give citizens the power and knowledge to make good voting decisions."

Staffed primarily by volunteers, the organization researches the backgrounds and records of thousands of political candidates and elected officials nationwide. Their unbiased findings are posted on the Web at www.vote-smart.org. Castanien holds one of the few salaried positions at the organization, adding, "It barely pays; primarily it just covers living expenses."

While at Georgia Southern, Castanien was politically active, serving with the Student Government Association and helping to organize a Young Independents group. He stressed the importance of educating others about democracy. "I feel it's my civic duty to get citizens involved in the political process and help them break through the lies and deceit that goes on in political campaigns around the country today," he said.

Castanien, who earned a bachelor's degree in business with a concentration in computer information systems, helps with the organization's database management, Web site modifications, server hardware/software upgrades and in-house computer repairs.

"That's one of the benefits to this job, I've gotten a taste of many different duties that I might not have gotten with a larger company," Castanien said.

The position also appealed to Castanien's daring nature.

"Given the opportunity, everyone, especially when they're young, should take an ad-



Matthew Castanien ('04), works in Montana for the non-profit organization Project Vote Smart.

venturous job," Castanien urged. "Even living somewhere else regionally can be an eye-opening experience that can help change your political views and expose you to how others see situations."

Located near Philipsburg, a town of about 900 residents in southwest Montana, Project Vote Smart is housed at a 150-acre facility known as the Great Divide Ranch.

Castanien, who grew up near Atlanta, stated that while Philipsburg is small, there is still a lot to do.

"The hiking is amazing, and last winter, I was snowboarding every weekend. Friends and I also go out a couple of times a month for skeet shooting," Castanien declared. "Once or

twice a week, the staff gets together and goes to one of the town's four bars. We play pool and tabletop shuffleboard, a game that is really big here – it's very competitive among the locals."

After two years with Project Vote Smart, Castanien admits he must work toward his next goal – financial stability.

"I've enjoyed my time in the nonprofit sector, and I feel I've given back a little to society," said Castanien, who is searching for new job opportunities on the East Coast. "Wherever I relocate, I'll continue to be involved with nonprofits and help promote civic responsibility. Money isn't everything, but the financial institutions to which I still owe money want their check every month."

Mike Fagler ('85) is a captain—Troop F Commander with the Georgia State Patrol. He also serves as an adjunct instructor of criminal justice at East Georgia College. He and his wife, Hope, live in Swainsboro, Ga., with their children, Macy and Shane.

Michelle Forth Brown ('89) is senior director of the southeast division for Kelly Services. She and her husband, Kenny, have two children, Haley and Tyler. The family lives in Gainesville, Fla., and can be reached at kmht@bellsouth.net.

1990s

Allen Allnoch ('90) is communications manager at Palmetto Bluff, a 20,000-acre residential and resort community in Bluffton, S.C.

John Charles Roe ('90) is owner of Roe & Associates. His wife, **Jenny** (Jensen '87) is an attorney and partner with Jones, Jensen & Harris. The couple have three children, John Charles Jr., Courtney and James. The family lives in Duluth, Ga., and would enjoy hearing from friends at jej@jhlaw.com or jcroe@roeassociates.com.

Shawn Sullivan ('90) is a specialty territory manager with Sanofi-Aventis. His wife, **Renee** (Argy '92), is an accountant with Ben Carter Properties. They and their sons, Patrick, Ryan and Liam, live in Lawrenceville, Ga. "We are all big Georgia Southern fans and try to get to Statesboro as often as possible," he writes. "We would love to hear from old friends." The family can be reached at shawn.sullivan@sanofi-aventis.com.

Kyle Brinkman ('91) has been named news director at WEAR-TV 3 in Pensacola, Fla.

Traci Hall Best ('91) is a financial analyst with Georgia Power Company. She and her husband, John, celebrated the birth of John Victor in June. She writes, "I would love to hear from old friends at tlbest@bellsouth.net."

Tanya Arauz Perkins ('91) is an assistant special agent-in-charge with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. She is also certified as a Fire Fighter I and II and works part-time as an emergency medical technician at McDuffie Regional Hospital in Thomson, Ga. She lives in Mitchell, Ga., and can be reached at tap290@bellsouth.net.

» ALUMNI PROFILE

Keep on the sunny side

Aycock helps clients identify and correct negative behavior

Michelle Aycock is sure fellow Savannah native and songwriter Johnny Mercer was on to something when he penned "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive" back in 1944.

"I see a lot of people with anxiety and depression because they focus only on the negative in their lives and not the positive," said Aycock ('96), a private practice psychotherapist in her hometown.

"What I see over and over and over is that we humans tend to focus on the negative," she said. "That is something that I see day-in and day-out. We don't see our accomplishments. We don't see the things that we have. That keeps us wrapped up in 'how horrible life' is and 'I don't have this' and how 'I want this' and 'I can't get this.'"

"It's focusing on what people don't have and the negative thinking that really is the common problem.

"That's why gossip spreads," Aycock said. "Good news doesn't spread like gossip. All the gossip magazines would be out of business. I think that negative behavior does drive us. It's good in ways, because it can drive us to be better, but for a lot of people it kind of keeps us where we are."

Most of her clients are couples with marital problems and parents who are struggling to rear their kids. Her goal is often getting them to modify how they think, modify their behavior and their reactions – getting them to think differently. "My motto is, if you want to change the way you feel, you have to change the way you think," said Aycock. "And that's how you can control things."

Imagine a situation, she said. "Somebody pulls out in front me. I all of a sudden have all these thoughts, 'How dare they!' or 'They should have seen me! They did that on purpose!' I become angry and then I react. I'm honking my horn, I'm yelling, screaming, cussing.

We should choose to react in a non-negative way, she said. Something like, "Oh well, I guess they're in a hurry. Maybe they didn't see me." I'm choosing not to react in an angry manner," said Aycock. "We tend to take things personally, and it's not personal.

"You have to look at it so that you don't get yourself all worked up with anxiety and anger and it completely takes you over. Those thoughts are what get us in trouble."

Aycock, who holds both her B.S. and M.S. degrees in psychology from the University, is frequently sought as an expert commentator by Savannah television stations and has a weekly parenting column in the *Savannah Morning News*.

FRANK FORTUNE



» ALUMNI PROFILE

Servant of the people

Simmens' career dedicated to public service

By Michelle Groover



Lance Simmens ('76)

It started in an American Government course.

As special assistant for intergovernmental relations, Lance Simmens ('76) serves as a liaison to local elected officials for the Governor of Pennsylvania. In this role, he is responsible for all issues of importance to local government. "I also serve as the governor's point person on issues affecting local government associations that represent the elected officials including mayors, county commissioners, township supervisors, boroughs and school districts," he said.

Simmens has worked in public service for more than 25 years and during this time was appointed to several positions by President Clinton. "In 1993 President Clinton chose me to help establish the first Office of Sustainable Development in the federal government," he said. "The mission of the office was to develop policies and programs that integrated both economic development and environmental stewardship in a coherent and strategic fashion."

Clinton also appointed him director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations with the Department of Health and Human Services, senior advisor to the President's Commission on Year 2000 Conversion, and as director of Intergovernmental Affairs with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Prior to his current position, Simmens was the national director of government relations with the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) in Los Angeles. "I was the chief architect of strategies and policies for dealing with the state government in Sacramento and the federal government in Washington, D.C.," he said.

"The most important issues I worked on at SAG involved developing a strategy for addressing a serious economic concern to the acting community, namely the outsourcing of movie productions to other countries for strictly economic reasons," he added.

While in his current position, Simmens has maintained a connection to Georgia Southern. "I have had occasion to work with the State Adjutant General Jessica Wright, who taught ROTC at Southern in the mid-'80s. We have worked together on a number of issues involving the state's National Guard," he said. "Additionally, I have had the pleasure of reacquainting an old friendship from my days at Southern with Mel Collins. Mel works for a major telephone company, and we have collaborated on a couple of issues together, but mostly find time to discuss old times in Statesboro."

Simmens enjoys his position in public service. "It is a real honor and privilege to be a public servant and I have spent the last 30 years in extremely interesting positions and had the opportunity to be involved in fascinating projects with fascinating people.

"Of course, it all started in Lane Van Tassell's American Government course back in 1972, and the foundation provided by the college has helped me navigate a truly exciting and fulfilling career," he said.

Simmens has two sons, with whom he shares an appreciation for rock and roll and playing music. He also maintains an active bicycling regime, peddling more than 80 miles a weekend.

Don ('92) and Laura (Brooks '92) Norton met at Georgia Southern when he played football and she was a cheerleader. "We began taking classes toward our B.S. in education and have taken every class together since meeting," they write. They recently completed their Education Specialist Degrees at the University.

Susan Presley ('92) lives in Milledgeville, Ga.

Angela Jones Welch ('92) teaches gifted students at Lee County Elementary School. She recently earned her Education Specialist Degree from Troy State University in elementary education. She and her husband, Mitch, live in Albany, Ga.

Nancy Dove James ('93) and her husband, Joseph, announce the November 2005 birth of their triplets, Eva, William and Jackson.

Kristen Pugia Kelly ('93) is a life and business coach with Building Champions. She writes, "I would love to hear from old classmates and Kappa Delta sorority sisters at kristen.kelly@buildingchampions.com." She and her husband, Richard, live in Denver, Colo.

Chuck Perry ('93) of Statesboro is the chairman of the board of EMC Engineering Services Inc.

Deborah Sark ('93) and Shawn Hefner were married in May. They live in Sandy Springs, Ga.

Donna Weaver Shuford ('93) and her husband, James, welcome their fourth child, Mary Beth, in August. She joins siblings Brady, Trey and Ben. The family lives in Macon, Ga.

Tonya Brown Williams ('93) is vice president with ASP Kennesaw. She and her husband, Jeffrey, have three children, Bryan, Ansley and Addie Marie. They reside in Kennesaw, Ga.

Tammy Scroggins Lawman ('94) is president and owner of Climb On Inc., a portable rock-climbing wall. She writes, "Check out our website at <http://www.lawmanadventures.com/> for photos and more information." She and her husband, Reede, live in Boca Raton, Fla., and can be reached at tammylawman@yahoo.com.

Cara Taylor Gaskins ('95) and her husband, **Craig ('95)**, announce the June birth of their son, Owen Cole. He joins identical twin brothers Riley and Conner.

Janis N. Whigham Gilchrist ('95) has been named Teacher of the Year for

» ALUMNI PROFILE

Call of the wild

Dowdy's love of hunting leads to huge turkey call collection

By Phillip Brown

Georgia Southern alumnus Dalton Dowdy ('98) may be a legal eagle, but he doesn't mind being associated with turkeys.

An attorney by profession, Dowdy's long diversion has been hunting – especially wild turkeys. He killed his first gobbler at age 11 – with a little help from his first turkey call. Since then, Dowdy has spent every spring in search of fresh quarry using new turkey calls, and more new calls, and even more new calls. After almost 20 years, he's amassed a collection of more than 2,500 calls.

"I didn't start out to be a turkey call collector. I stumbled into it while looking for the 'perfect' call," said Dowdy, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in business. After earning a law degree from Mississippi College in 2001, he joined the firm of Abbot, Murphy & Harvey in Louisville, Ga., where he specializes in litigation and real estate law.

According to Dowdy, turkey calls are essential to be a successful hunter.

"It would be virtually impossible to legally bag a turkey without using a call. Turkey hunting is different from deer hunting," Dowdy said. "For deer hunting, you select a stand location in the woods and wait for deer to show up. With turkey hunting, you have to use a call to lure the birds into gun range."

Turkey calls fall into two categories – air-operated and friction-operated. Both are designed to emit sounds imitating turkeys. One type of air-operated call is a mouth call, which uses latex stretched over a frame. Other air-operated calls include wing-bone calls (made



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Dalton Dowdy ('98) shows one of the 2,500 turkey calls he's collected over the years.

from the radius and ulna of a turkey wing), tube calls and trumpet calls. Friction-operated calls are usually wooden devices, but can be made from plastic, too. Examples include box calls, peg and slate calls, and scratch box calls. Henry C. Gibson patented the first box call in 1897.

"The best calls are hand-carved, wooden ones," said Dowdy. "Call makers might use walnut, yellow poplar, cedar or mahogany, but I prefer the sound and tone of box calls made from butternut."

Dowdy's collection includes examples of many styles of calls, some dating from the late 1880s. He owns two by Gibson as well as calls made by M.L. Lynch, Tom and Inman Turpin, and Neil Cost, whose creations are highly prized for the quality of their workmanship.

"My current favorite for hunting is a trumpet caller made from instrument-grade African Blackwood carved by my good friend L.F. 'Frank' Cox from Memphis, Tenn.," Dowdy declared. "He is a true student of the wild turkey

and an old school hunter."

His first call was a gift from his grandmother, Sue Martin Oliver. Since then, Dowdy has used ads in newspapers, relied upon word of mouth and shopped eBay to build his collection, even purchasing one from a lady in England.

"I have no idea how she came to have one in her possession," Dowdy stated. "There aren't any wild turkeys in England."

He also attends the National Wild Turkey Federation convention every February looking for additions to his collection. For the past five years, Dowdy has served as a judge at the convention's hunting call competition.

"eBay is probably the best outlet for collectors. There are hundreds of calls there – both good ones and junk," said Dowdy. "There are probably hundreds of collectible calls sitting around in people's garages and closets. You just have to get out and hunt for them."

Dowdy is always interested in acquiring turkey calls or talking about them. He can be reached via e-mail at ddowdy_amhlaw@bellsouth.net.

Windsor Spring Elementary in Augusta, Ga., and was chosen as a finalist for Richmond County Teacher of the Year. Also, she was nominated and will be listed in the 10th edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. This summer, she was appointed to the state Women's Concerns Committee of the Georgia Association of

Educators (GAE). She may be contacted at janisgilchrist@yahoo.com.

Dannah Smith Hagerty ('95) works in sales for ENTEK. She and her husband, Gene, live in Auburn, Ga., with their daughter Sophia.

Stephanie Todd Haley ('95) is an executive producer with CNN Headline News. Her husband, **Reed** ('95) owns Spokes Cycling & Fitness. The couple, who married in July, lives in Clearwater, Fla. They can be reached at stephanieltodd@hotmail.com or reed@spokescycling.com.

» ALUMNI PROFILE

No boundaries

Davidson pushes the creative envelope

By Michelle Groover

Breaking the rules is part of the job for John Davidson.

As creative director of his production company, Magic Feather Inc., Davidson ('97) pushes boundaries daily.

"My job is built around really having fun with ideas," he explained. "Once you have your ideas in hand, you put on your producer hat and figure out what is practical, original and could be tied into the brand or promote the show or movie the best."

Magic Feather, headquartered in Los Angeles, creates commercials, trailers and motion graphics. The name comes from the magic feather in Disney's movie "Dumbo."

"There was a point in my career after I moved to Los Angeles that I stopped playing it safe and truly began pushing the boundaries of my creativity," said Davidson. "I felt as if I had Dumbo's magic feather and could fly. Shortly thereafter, I formed my company. Magic Feather Inc. is a nod to the movie and one of my biggest clients, Disney.

"My job is primarily to come up with ideas that networks, agencies and other media companies pay for on a per-project basis to promote their upcoming shows and movies, and then put those ideas to work," he said. "From a certain perspective, I'm a professional daydreamer. I create exciting, dramatic and fun commercials, trailers and image campaigns for networks and agencies all over the country.

"Some don't think too hard about the effort that goes into TV promos, but any network executive will tell you that the key to success of any show, series or movie is the quality of its marketing campaign. I write, direct, design, produce and essentially am the driving force behind getting a campaign created from concept to delivery," Davidson added.

Over the past four years, Davidson has produced campaigns for a wide variety of networks, including MTV, FX, Disney Channel, Toon Disney, JETIX and ABC Family. "My most recent projects include trailers for MTV's forthcoming 'Where My Dogs At?' and 'Chico and Guapo.' I also worked on Toon Disney's launch campaigns for the animated series 'Daigunder' and 'NASCAR Racers'.

"I also recently completed a pro bono DVD project called 'Kelly Hollywood,' a live show featuring a beautiful girl named Kelly with Down Syndrome documenting her star-studded experiences in Hollywood," he said.

Davidson lives outside Los Angeles in the town of Westchester.

"There's something to be said for the small town feel you get in Statesboro and Georgia Southern," said Davidson, who earned his degree in communication arts. "The school was small enough to let each student get individual attention from teachers, yet large enough to command a national presence, as seen through several years of fantastic football seasons."

Will Van Kleef III ('95) is an asset accountant with The Hon Company. He and his wife, Marcy, live in Rome, Ga., with their daughters Molly and Emily.

Kathee Sessoms Wilkins ('95) is senior manager of corporate cost accounting at Gulfstream Aerospace in Savannah.

Alana Avret ('96) was recently named mortgage lending officer at Sea Island Bank. She also serves as associate vice president of the Statesboro Homebuilders Association. She and her husband, Chad, have one son, Evan.

Jennifer Neylan Brennan ('96) and her husband, Terence, announce the birth of their son, Terence III, who joins sister Jordan. Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom.

Valarie Simpson Andrews is an optometrist in Richmond, Va., where she lives with her husband, David. She would enjoy hearing from friends at valariesimpson@hotmail.com.

Jerri Thomas Garner ('97) is a proposal manager with Clean Harbors Environmental Services Inc. "I am so happy in my new position. I get to mesh my love for environmental protection with my attention to detail, as well as prepare nice promotional packages," she writes. She and her husband, Jason, live in Columbia, S.C., and can be reached at jerri.garner@gmail.com.

Hal Earnest ('98), and his wife, **Meredith** (Keeffe '99) celebrated the birth of their son Owen Durham in August. The family makes their home in Montgomery, Ala. Hal is the regional director for the state of Alabama for Ducks Unlimited. Meredith is the director of communications for the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. They write, "We welcome e-mails from friends at halmere@knology.net."

Joseph F. Cason Jr. ('99) and his wife, **Jaclyn** (Proctor '01), are living in Statesboro. Joseph is a food services manager with Georgia Southern. Jaclyn is a wealth management specialist with BB&T. Joseph writes that he has been in the food business since he was 15 years of age, and, after stints in Savannah and Perry, Ga., is glad to be back in the 'Boro.

2000s

Erin L. Brown ('00) is a trauma/surgical nurse with Memorial Medical Center in Savannah. She may be reached at elbrown9@hotmail.com.



Isha L. Dean ('00) is a workers compensation specialist with Builders Insurance Group. She lives in Smyrna, Ga., and can be contacted at ishaldean@hotmail.com.

Michael Sergi ('00) is a wellness coordinator at the Savannah College of Art and Design. He and his wife, Chris, live in Savannah.

John Van Horn ('00) and **Natalie Lambert** ('03) were married in May and are living in Cape Coral, Fla.

Courtney Armstrong Gordon ('01) and her husband, Patrick, celebrated the birth of their son, Jack, in August. She writes, "I am always excited to reconnect with friends and sorority sisters from Georgia Southern. Send e-mail to carm424@aol.com." The family lives in Superior Township, Mich.

Stacey Mazikowski ('01) is a flight attendant with Atlantic Southeast Airlines and lives in Kennesaw, Ga. She would enjoy hearing from friends at staceymaz97@aol.com.

Holly Noonan Moore ('01) is a school administrative assistant at the Bethesda Day School. Her husband, **Jason** ('03) is a mechanic at Superbike Specialities. They reside in Savannah, and can be reached at eaglegal_21@yahoo.com or jasonrides@yahoo.com.

Robert ('02) and **Kristen** (Henderson '01) **Coggins** celebrated the birth of their daughter, Alexandria, in May. The family lives in Kennesaw, Ga.

Jeri Nolte ('02) and Scott Ray were married in December 2005. The couple resides in Waycross, Ga., where Jeri teaches first-grade special education.

Taryn Price ('02) is a sales associate with HRP. She lives in Norcross, Ga., and can be reached at taryngasou@yahoo.com.

Jennifer Butler ('03) works as an employment specialist with Goodwill Industries of North Florida. She is also a massage therapy student and is scheduled to take her certification exam this fall. She makes her home in Jacksonville, Fla.

Elizabeth Gallagher Deal ('03) is a nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Her husband, **Stothard** ('00) is a product manager with AIG. The couple reside in Suwanee, Ga., and can be reached at elizabeth_deal@bellsouth.net or stothardd@yahoo.com.

Robert Kolodzy ('03) and his wife, **Caitlin** (Emery '01) announce the November 2005 birth of their son, Carson. Robert is an assistant athletic trainer at Limestone College in Gaffney, S.C.

Laura-Victoria Posey ('03) relocated to Marietta, Ga., where she bought her first home. This past summer she sang with the Michael O'Neal singers.

Rebecca Samples ('03) and Gary Garrett were married in February and live in Alpharetta, Ga.

Abbie Williford ('03) and Brad Blackmon were married in April and live in Statesboro.

Stephen "Walt" Archer II ('04) is a technical analyst with Genuine Parts Co. He resides in Suwanee, Ga., and can be reached at toswa2@hotmail.com.

John Johnston Sr. ('04) lives in Lexington Park, Md., and can be reached at tunkerj2@yahoo.com.

Jenny Lee ('04) and Adam Chandler were married in July at Turner Field in Atlanta. They are living in Blairsville, Ga.

Nickelaziena Clarkson ('04) is program advisor for Greek Life and Leadership at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville.

Lindsay Dowd ('04) is a child support enforcement supervisor with the Office of the District Attorney in Statesboro.

Brittany Gates ('04) works in customer service for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia/Wellpoint Inc. She writes, "I am living in Columbus, Ga., working on my novels. I have three that are nearly finished with two more in the draft process." She can be reached at brittanycgates@yahoo.com.

Christopher Wright ('04) bills freight with the Acquirement, Shipping and Detail Professional Division of Yellow Roadway. "I recently finished my first book of poetry, *Chicken & Rise Nights in Poetry*," he writes. "I am now working on my first novel and an inspirational stage play that I hope to have finished by next year." He lives in Valdosta, Ga.

Jason Gibson ('05) is an account executive with Atlanta Spirit LLC. He and his wife, Jennifer, celebrated the June birth of their son, Caleb Owen. The family resides in

Rockmart, Ga., and can be reached at kevin.gibson@atlantaspirit.com.

Brian Griffiths ('05) is a support and training specialist with Resource Management Inc. in Atlanta. He may be contacted at grif2000@yahoo.com.

Rita Hall Jordan ('05) and her husband, **David** ('05), live in Jacksonville, Fla.

Christy Powell Lane ('05) is creative director at Southeastern Marketing, a full-service advertising and public relations agency based in Statesboro. She and her husband, Blake, live in Statesboro.

Jennifer Melton ('05) works on the staff at Draffin & Tucker LLP. She lives in Leesburg, Ga., and can be reached at jmelton@draffin-tucker.com.

Heath Stubbs ('05) and **Jamie Cupples** ('04) were married in June and reside in Savannah.

Jana Grove ('06) and **Joshua Ferguson** ('05) were married in August. Jana is a loan assistant with AgSouth Farm Credit ACA. Joshua is an order selector with Sunbelt Marketing. The couple resides in Villa Rica, Ga.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

Dr. Emory Bohler, '50, Brooklet, Ga.
Jessie Bird, '48, Metter, Ga.
Lila Brady Brim, Sasser, Ga.
Stella Dixon Collins, Augusta, Ga.
Earle Lee Franklin, Statesboro
Ceceilia "Ceya" Martin Ginn, Statesboro
Juanita McKinnon Grantham, Douglas, Ga.
Lucy Glisson Holloway, '35, Metter, Ga.
Ronald Mogel II, '98, Waynesboro, Ga.
Joseph R. Pond, '66, Evans, Ga.
Jason Scott Savage, '02, Dublin, Ga.
Margaret Broyles Tarpley, Valdosta, Ga.
Patricia Hamilton Watson, '75, Snellville, Ga.
Rosalyn Warren Wells, Statesboro
Walker W. "Bo" Whaley, Dublin, Ga.
R. Harold Wynn, '55, LaGrange, Ga.

FACULTY/STAFF

Kenneth Taylor, Statesboro
Erk Russell, Statesboro

STUDENTS

Bryn Moulder, Atlanta

FRIENDS

Jim E. Yates III, Statesboro

Dr. Charles Emory Bohler, age 81, ('50) died Sept. 10. Dr. Bohler was a member of the Georgia Southern Foundation Board of Directors and was active in Southern Boosters. He began his family medical practice in 1955 in Brooklet, Ga., after completing his training at the Medical College of Georgia. He was a World War II veteran, receiving a Purple Heart and Air Medal as a gunner on a B29 bomber. Dr. Bohler was the recipient of the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award in 1991 and the Deen Day Smith Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993. He served on the medical staff of Bulloch Memorial Hospital (now East Georgia Regional Medical Center) since 1955 and was the first physician on the Bulloch Memorial Hospital Authority, a past president of the Ogeechee River Medical Society, past president of the Medical Association of Georgia, chairman of the Georgia Delegation to the American Medical Association and a member of the Southern Medical Association. The City of Brooklet honored Dr. Bohler in 1979 with "Doctors Day" recognizing his then-25 years of community service. He was recognized as "Citizen of the Year" in 1997 by the Statesboro Rotary Club. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Billie Parker Bohler; children Rene, Ellen, Matt and Tim; three grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and cousins.

Rosalyn Warren Wells, 70, died Oct. 19 in Statesboro. Mrs. Wells was 28-year veteran of the Georgia Southern faculty in the College of Education and the Department of Mathematical Sciences, retiring as assistant professor emerita of mathematics. She was, for several years, the coordinator of the Developmental Mathematics program. Mrs. Wells was active in Pittman Park United Methodist Church and in the community with Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, the Statesboro Youth Chorale, and the Weed and Wilt Garden Club. She was honored with a Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award in 2005. She and her husband endowed the University's Wells-Warren Professor of the Year Award and were instrumental in the establishment of the campus Honorarium Wall of retired faculty and staff. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Norman Wells; children Jennifer and Jay; three grandchildren, an aunt, an uncle and several cousins.

Homecoming 2006

Thousands of alumni gathered on campus last October to renew friendships and refresh memories of the people, places and events that defined their college years. Pictured, clockwise from top, the Eagles took No. 1 App State to two overtimes; the Homecoming Parade makes its rounds; tailgating at Paulson Stadium; the BAGS alumni group shares good times; and the newly crowned Homecoming King and Queen.



» ALUMNI PROFILE

Going to the mattress

Tempur-Pedic CEO leads company in worldwide bedding battle

By David Thompson

Tom Bryant has made his bed, and he's going to have to lie in it – which is not a bad thing.

Bryant ('71) is president and CEO of Tempur-Pedic, the world's most profitable bedding company.

Since joining Tempur-Pedic in 2001, not only has his job changed – the nature of the company has undergone a shift as well. Bryant has seen Tempur-Pedic make the transition from a private to a publicly held entity.

"We went public in December of 2003, and a lot of issues that you deal with as president and CEO of a private company are considerably different when you go public," he said. "As a public company you are certainly cognizant of adding shareholder value. We are also very cognizant of having ethical practices as we expand our business."

The 1960s Broadway production "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," a popular musical fantasy about young executive's meteoric rise to the top was, well, a fantasy. The reality is that it takes long years of study and experience to reach Bryant's level of leadership. The self-described "Army brat," whose dad concluded his career at Fort Benning, near Columbus, Ga., started as a management trainee with Johnson & Johnson in the early 1970s. He spent 15 years with that company before joining Dunlap Maxfli Sports Corp. in 1989, where he served in various management positions. In 1998 he joined Stairmaster Sports & Medical Products Inc. as its president and CEO.

"I certainly give a lot of credit to my early days with Johnson & Johnson," Bryant said. "Johnson & Johnson is a great company. They do an excellent job of training and developing people into managers and executives. I was fortunate, back when I started with J&J, to get into a management development program and spent a lot of time doing different types of jobs that exposed me to various areas of the business.



"J&J certainly helped formulate my management philosophy," he said. "I, of course, have built on that from my own experiences as I've moved forward.

"My philosophy today, and has been for quite a while, is that any company – it's developed into a cliché these days, but it's true – any company is only as strong as the people you have working for you," said Bryant. "We have 1,400 employees at Tempur-Pedic, and every one of those employees is important. They are an extension of the company – an extension of our brand.

"There is the old philosophy that some companies have used in the past, where they talk about putting customers first," Bryant said. "We try to have as our philosophy to put our employees first. If we put our employees first, then they will treat our customers the way they need to be treated.

"There is the old philosophy that some companies have used in the past, where they talk about putting customers first. We try to have as our philosophy to put our employees first. If we put our employees first, then they will treat our customers the way they need to be treated."

Tom Bryant ('71)
president and CEO of Tempur-Pedic

"We try to hire the best people we can and try to train and develop these people and create an environment where self-motivation will take place," he said, "and we've built in incentives and a team-based approach to managing our business. We try and push the responsibility and the accountability down into the organization so that people can make decisions without having to go through a bureaucracy."

Meanwhile, Bryant's company keeps growing. It has a manufacturing plant in Denmark, serving Europe and Asia, and is building one in New Mexico that, along with an existing plant in Virginia, will supply North America.

"It's been a great ride, keep knocking on wood," Bryant said. "We're the most profitable company in the industry. When I started with the company we were doing about \$200 million." This year, the company is anticipating \$940-970 million, he said, "so we're approaching that billion dollar mark. Fortunately, we have a very good product. That helps."

Do right

ERK RUSSELL 1926-
2006



Coach, father, grandfather, hero and friend



***“I haven’t been very smart,
Erk once said, ‘but what
I have been is lucky.’
Erk, you may have called
yourself lucky, but we
believe we were the
lucky ones just to
have known you.”***

Enoch Autry, publisher *Sylvania Telephone*



“Our grief, our tears, our hurt and our shock is because he was taken from us so suddenly, without warning. We thought he was invincible. No one is.”

Rev. Claude McBride, UGA Team Chaplain, retired

“Coach Russell believed in giving his best to every effort. Because he had that unwavering commitment to excellence, he brought out the best in those around him. No one wanted to disappoint Erk, including me. I always found myself trying to stand up a bit straighter when I was with him.”

President Bruce Grube

“In his special way, Erk touched both our heads and our hearts. I remember so well when he first said in Statesboro, ‘I have only one rule: Do right!’ When asked what he meant, he said, ‘When confronted with a situation, find out what’s right and do it!’ He was there for his players, like a 12th player in the game, and, in his own way, he was always there for all of the rest of us as well. Marilyn, my wife, reminded me of his personal attention to others; when he talked to you, he looked into your eyes and gave you his complete attention.”

Former President Dale W. Lick

“When my son, Kevin, was in the 11th grade at Walton High School in Marietta, Ga., he was tragically injured in an automobile accident. Erk Russell took the time to write him a personal note when it was questionable as to whether he might ever play football again or even walk normally again. It was Erk Russell’s inspiration and his caring, his challenging someone to overcome adversity that led to Kevin’s complete recovery, and, a year later, his competition on the football field once again.”

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson

“What a coach, but more importantly, what a man. He cared – he truly cared – not just about you as a player, but as a person. He taught me that the best way to live is to “Do Right!” He opened my eyes to the fact that everything isn’t that complicated, football or life. Be honest and work hard and you will see each day is truly a blessing.”

Giff Smith, former player



“I remember his first trip to Dublin and setting up visits with local Georgia Southern supporters. I would drive him to offices and we would pitch Georgia Southern football and ask for their support by buying tickets or donations to the football program. The following week we met in a Booster Room underneath Hanner ... and presented them with a check for \$10,000. I remember him making me feel like we had given them a million dollars. Erk was someone that made you feel special.”

Mike Cummings, Southern Boosters Chair





FRANK FORTUNE

PRESIDENTIAL FIRST – George W. Bush’s October 30 appearance at Hanner Field House marked the first visit by a sitting American president in Georgia Southern history. The event was hosted by a student organization, the College Republicans.



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A CENTURY OF GEORGIA SOUTHERN



» 1909 A&M baseball team plays first extramural game against Brooklet
 » 1909 Students buy a "football" and begin practicing a new sport

» 1906 Georgia Southern founded as First District A&M School



» 1910 Three seniors make up first graduating class
 » 1910 Halley's Comet appears



» 1912 More than 1,500 die in Titanic sinking
 » 1917 U.S. enters World War I

» 1919 Esten Graham Cromartie is named new "Culture football coach"

» 1920 Prohibition begins
 » 1920 Women's basketball team, Farnettes, beats Savannah High
 » 1920 Frank M. Rowan resigns; first president is Ernest V. Hollis

» 1929 Georgia Normal becomes four-year South Georgia Teachers College

» 1929 Stock market crashes. The Great Depression begins as companies and banks fail

» 1924 Legislature changes A&M School to two-year Georgia Normal School

» 1929 Coach Byron "Crook" Smith leads Blue Tide to 5-2 record and conference football championship

» 1926 Guy Wells becomes president when Ernest Hollis resigns

» 1930 Professor Lucy Gage of Peabody College is first female commencement speaker

» 1932 Amelia Earhart is first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic

» 1932 Basketball team's nickname is "Teachers"

» 1936 Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools accredits TC

» 1934 Guy Wells departs for Georgia State College for Women, is replaced by Marvin S. Pittman

» 1934 Reflector not published for 1934-35, due to Depression

» 1941 Marlin Pittman is fired for "teaching communism" and "advocating racial equality." He is succeeded by Albert M. Gates

» 1941 Students protest the firing of President Marlin Pittman by refusing to attend classes and marching in an impromptu parade in downtown Statesboro

» 1941 Student government passes new hazing rules for "rats"

» 1941 University System of Georgia loses accreditation

» 1941 WNBT in New York transmits first commercial TV broadcast

» 1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, U.S. enters World War II

» 1948 President Ward becomes assistant chancellor; is replaced by Zach Henderson, above

» 1948 First Annual Watermelon Cutting

» 1952 U.S. reports 57,628 cases of polio, mostly children

» 1952 Gen. Dwight Eisenhower elected president.

» 1955 Basketball team sets 30 school records, including double-figure scoring by Chester Webb, Doug Corry, Don Wallen, "Bo" Warren and Garland Campbell

» 1955 Nobel laureate Albert Einstein dies

» 1958 Enrollment reaches 1,000

» 1958 First Annual Center opens

» 1963 President John F. Kennedy assassinated; Lyndon Johnson succeeds

» 1967 Foy Fine Arts opens

» 1971 John Eidson moves to Regents staff; Pope Duncan named president

» 1977 President Duncan departs for Stetson University; Dale Lick named president

» 1986 Halley's Comet reappears

» 1990 Georgia Southern elevated to university status

» 1990 U.S. National Tick Collection arrives

» 1992 Bill Clinton elected president

» 1996 Wildlife Education Center founded

» 2000 George W. Bush elected President

» 2000 Eagles win sixth football championship

» 2001 Terror attack destroys World Trade Center

» 2003 College of Information Technology founded

» 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom commences

» 2003 Capital drive "Campaign for National Distinction" begins

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