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Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2010). *Newsroom*. 1182.
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Georgia Southern University Announces Fall Commencement Speakers

DECEMBER 1, 2010

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Georgia Southern University announces speakers for its Fall 2010 commencement ceremonies scheduled for Dec. 10, 2010.

Patricia (Patty) A. Lavelly, senior vice president and chief information officer for Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Ga., will serve as the speaker for the 9 a.m. ceremony. Lavelly oversees the day-to-day operations and strategy of the center's information services (I.S.) team. Before joining Memorial in 2006, Lavelly was chief information officer at Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany, Ga. Prior to that, she was with Promina Health System in Atlanta, where she first served as director of physician services and information systems and later vice president and chief information officer. She began her career as a payroll manager at Columbia/HCA MedFirst.

Lavelly is a member of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, the American College of Healthcare Executives, and the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives. She is a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives and is a certified professional in healthcare information management. She is also involved in local and statewide health information technology initiatives and has served on the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council as chair of the council's Information Technology Committee. At the state level, Lavelly chairs the Department of Community Health's Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board, a role she has held since 2008. Additionally, in 2008, the Georgia CIO Leadership Association named Lavelly CIO of the Year.

Lavelly earned her bachelor's degree in science at Shorter College in Rome, Ga., and her MBA at Florida State University.

Gary D. Nelson, Ph.D., president of Healthcare Georgia Foundation, will serve as the speaker for the 11 a.m. ceremony. In his current role, Nelson is responsible for implementing board decisions and policies and for executive management of the Foundation's program, financial and management operations. Working with the Foundation's board of directors, Nelson oversees the design and management of the Foundation's grantmaking program – dedicated to advancing the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals and communities. Prior to joining the Foundation in March 2002, Nelson served as a program director at The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) where he was responsible for managing the Health Improvement Initiative, Healthy Aging and the Foundation's population health programs.

He previously was employed at the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 1986 to 1993, where he managed several nationally significant evaluation projects and served as an associate director for Evaluation, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. He has held academic appointments in public health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He began his public health career with the Utah State Department of Public Health.

He received his bachelor's degree at Kansas State University, master's degree at Central Michigan University and his Ph.D. at the University of Utah.

Guy D. Foulkes, M.D., will serve as the speaker for the 1 p.m. ceremony. Foulkes received his bachelor of science degree in biology from Georgia Southern and his medical degree from Mercer University. After a surgical internship in Macon, Ga., Foulkes completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Following a fellowship in hand and microvascular surgery at UCLA in Los Angeles, Foulkes returned to Macon to join The Macon Orthopaedic and Hand Center. He specializes in the treatment of musculoskeletal and neurovascular problems of the hand, forearm and elbow.

Foulkes is past president of the Georgia Hand Society and served as president of the Bibb County Medical Society. He is also a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Georgia Orthopaedic Society and the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. He attained the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Medical Corps, U.S. Army Reserve, and served as a field surgeon during Operation Desert Shield. He has received numerous decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal and Georgia Special Operations Ribbon.

Foulkes has published numerous articles and book chapters, including duties as editor, reviewer and illustrator in the field of orthopaedic and hand surgery. His work has been presented in Hong Kong, Denmark, Hawaii and elsewhere. He is a certified airline transport pilot and flight instructor. His wife, Lesley, is a registered nurse and they have four daughters.

Georgia Southern University Fall 2010 Commencement Schedule

Commencement will take place inside historic Hanner Fieldhouse. Due to the expected record number of graduates, Fall Commencement will once again be divided into three separate ceremonies: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. Ceremony

Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
College of Business Administration
College of Information Technology
College of Health and Human Sciences

11:00 a.m. Ceremony

Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
College of Education
Jiann Ping Hsu College of Public Health
Interdisciplinary BS (International Trade)

1:00 p.m. Ceremony

Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Interdisciplinary BA (Intl Studies)

For more information on Fall Commencement, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/commencement.

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Georgia Southern University President Kicks Off Holiday Season with Annual Holiday Tree Planting

DECEMBER 1, 2010

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Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. today continued the tradition of planting a holiday tree. The tradition, dating back to 1978, was started by former President Dale Lick as a way to kick-off the holiday season.

Surrounded by faculty, staff and students, Keel completed the planting of the tree on Forest Drive near the University's Health Center. "The planting of the annual holiday kicks off a series of holiday events at Georgia Southern University and I am proud to continue this great tradition," said Keel. "This is one of the most beautiful university campuses in the country and I couldn't think of a better tree than the Southern Live Oak."

Keeping with recent tradition, the Southern Live Oak was selected from a Georgia nursery, this time near Augusta, Ga.

Georgia Southern University Landscape Architect Chuck Taylor said the tree and

the location were chosen for specific reasons. "The Southern Live Oak is an iconic tree of the South and its planting on Forest Drive will ultimately result in a beautiful addition to this part of campus. In addition to being a great tree, it is the perfect addition and continuation of a bioswell project, a joint project between the University's physical plant group and Georgia Southern biology and construction management students." The bioswell has been planted with native plant materials with the intent to filter rain and runoff water before it reaches main waterways and streams.

About the Tree

Quercus virginiana, also known as the Southern Live Oak, is an evergreen or nearly evergreen oak tree native to the southeastern United States. The tree can be a massive, wide-spreading, picturesque tree, or a mere shrub, depending on the site. Acorns provide for wildlife and decent growth and ease of transplanting have led to ornamental use. It is one of the best known species in the coastal region of the southeastern United States. In the past, it was widely used for structural pieces in the manufacture of wooden ships, and large groves were actually considered a strategic resource by the federal government.

Source: forestandrange.org/efloras.org

Georgia Southern University Holiday Festivities Continue:

Lighting of Sweetheart Circle Scheduled for Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Georgia Southern University will continue its kick off to the holiday season with The Lighting of Sweetheart Circle on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Members of the community are invited to attend what is quickly becoming one of the community's most popular holiday traditions.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy which will be donated to The Ronald McDonald House.

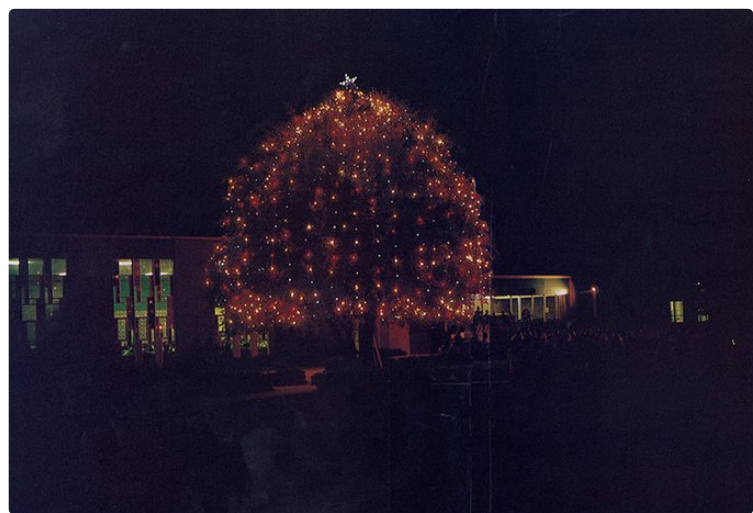
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Tweets by @GeorgiaSouthern

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 "O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree..." 🎄🎵#TBT to circa 1964, when a tree in front of the Williams Center was decorated for the holidays.



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Georgia Southern University to Host Fourth Annual Lighting of Sweetheart Circle

DECEMBER 1, 2010

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Georgia Southern University will continue a holiday tradition that was started in 2007 by officially lighting Sweetheart Circle on Thursday, Dec. 2.

Complete with a giant "switch" to activate the tens of thousands of lights strung along the Circle's buildings and landscape, the holiday lighting of Sweetheart Circle is just one of the many holiday events hosted each year by the University. The campus and community gather for a countdown and the University's President is given the honor of "flipping the switch." First-year President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. will officially light the circle on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. ET. After the event, guests will enjoy traditional holiday treats.

"The tradition started with a simple idea, but has grown into one of the most anticipated traditions of the year," said Christian Flathman, director of marketing and communications at Georgia Southern University. "When we first started the tradition, we wanted create something unique. We knew

that lighting a tree has already been done and we wanted to do something that no other university had done. It has taken on a life of its own and is really spectacular when you see everything lit at once."

The center of campus for more than 100 years, Sweetheart Circle is the perfect traditional backdrop for a display of holiday lights, evergreen wreaths and red bows. The buildings, trees and lampposts on the Circle are draped in lights and decorated in holiday finery and the colors of the season. The Georgia Southern winter wonderland extends to the "GSU" boxwoods, as they are dressed in sparkling white holiday lights.

Shining Light for a Good Cause

This year will mark the first year that guests will be encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys which will then be donated to The Ronald McDonald House.

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