

# Georgia Southern Parent News

December 2004

## **SEASONS GREETINGS**

It has been a pleasure serving you and your students during fall semester and I look forward to working with you in 2005. I hope you found the parent emails you received this semester to be interesting and informative. We try to provide you with updates and information that will keep you in touch with the community in which your child lives and learns.

I am interested in your feedback. Please let me know what you would like to see included in future editions. I can be reached by phone at 912-871-1987, email [parent@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:parent@georgiasouthern.edu) or fax 912-871-1214.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Emily L. Chandler  
Coordinator of Parent Programs

### **In this e-mail:**

**Holiday Break Adjustments - Families and Students**

**Important Message from Georgia Southern's Financial Aid Office**

**Remind Students to Lock Up Before leaving For the Holidays**

**Fall 2004 Commencement**

**Fee Payment Reminder**

**ON CAMPUS Accommodations for the 2005-06 academic year**

**Microsoft scholarship allows student to attend computer conference**

**Georgia Southern hawk new mascot for Atlanta NBA team**

**Upcoming Events**

**Calendar**

### **Holiday Break Adjustments - Families and Students**

The holiday break is a much needed time for rest, a time to re-connect with high school friends and family, and a time to "forget" the pressures of school for a while. When college students return home for their holiday break, it can be an adjustment for the entire family. While parents may have preconceived ideas about how the family will spend the holidays, students are anxious to try out their newfound independence. Several areas of conflict may arise.

**Don't be alarmed if students come home exhausted from the stress of taking final exams.** Students have just finished finals, are exhausted and may sleep a lot the first day or two. Parents who have invested money and energy in their children's education may not understand the zombie re-entering their home.

**Parents who welcome home an only child or the last to have left the home may realize that they have gotten used to privacy and a clean house.** Parents may enjoy the reinvigorated hustle and bustle of family life, but it is also normal to have moments of longing for the spontaneity and quiet life to which they've grown accustomed. Just as these feelings are normal for parents, it is also normal for students to long to be back on their own.

**Don't be surprised if curfew is a potentially explosive topic.** Engage in straightforward discussions and develop mutual expectations with students during the first few days at home. Parents may not be aware of the late schedule maintained by students while away at college, but when the student returns home, it's hard to turn off their 'worry button' when it's 2 a.m. and the student has not returned home. Come to an agreement that recognizes the student's independence, as well as the parents' need for "worry free night."

**Make plans early.** Since the winter break can last almost a month, it can be a challenge to coordinate family schedules during the busy holiday season. Students can feel pulled between spending time with their friends or their families. Plan ahead and speak with your student when making plans for family parties, vacations and other family events.

**Refrain from doing everything for your student.** Help foster independence in your student. It's easy to fall back on old habits when your child returns home. Though it may seem easier to do it yourself, encourage your student to continue to take responsibility for the things he or she has been handling in college.

Adapted from *Letting Go: A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years*. Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger. Harper Perennial.

### **Important Message From Georgia Southern's Financial Aid Office**

**WARNING: SOMEONE IMPERSONATING A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL IS OFFERING STUDENTS GRANTS FOR A PROCESSING FEE. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO <http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0713FinAidFraud.html>**

## **REMIND STUDENTS TO LOCK UP Before leaving For the Holidays**

A message similar to the following was sent to students residing off-campus. Students living on campus also met with Resident Advisors to discuss break information. Please remind your students to take extra precaution when leaving for break.

### **Burglary prevention tips for students**

Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Burglars aim for the easiest targets. To keep burglars away from your house or apartment, make their work difficult, risky and low-profit - double check doors and windows before leaving your residence. Make certain they are locked even if you are out for only a few minutes.

### **Before leaving for the Holiday Break:**

1. Don't leave valuables, like your TV, stereo, DVD/VCR, where people can see them through windows - consider storing them in a closet.
2. Take expensive, portable items with you.
3. Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights (or leave a light turned on). Making your residence appear occupied when no one is home may deter criminals.
4. Leave a stereo or TV on. It doesn't have to be loud. It confuses burglars if they can't tell what's going on inside your home. It doesn't always stop them, but it slows them down and sometimes they'll just pass you by if you can raise a doubt in their minds.
5. Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home.
6. Advise a trusted neighbor (or property manager) of your travel plans and ask him or her to watch out for suspicious people and/or activity around your home or apartment and make sure they have a number to contact you during your absence.
7. Don't allow deliveries of any kind, including mail and newspapers to accumulate. If you don't wish to cancel deliveries, arrange for a neighbor to pick them up. You can arrange for your local post office to hold your mail until you return.
8. Refrain from publicizing your absence from Statesboro.
9. Lock all doors and windows. Sliding glass doors and windows can be secured by putting a large dowel in the inside track to jam the door or window. (Dowels are inexpensive and can be found at Lowes or in the craft department at Wal-Mart).

## **Fall 2004 Commencement**

Georgia Southern University will conduct its Fall 2004 Commencement on Friday, Dec. 10, in three separate ceremonies at Hanner Fieldhouse.

Approximately 1,126 students are eligible to participate in the commencement ceremonies. This number includes some students who completed their degree requirements during the summer.

Here is the schedule for the fall commencement ceremonies:

- 9 a.m. - the College of Education and the College of Health and Human Sciences. James Kelley, an education technology consultant with the Apple Computers Southeast Education Area, will give the commencement address.

## **Fall 2004 Commencement**

- 11 a.m. - the College of Business Administration and the College of Information Technology. Margot Dawkins, the president of the Atlanta Advertising Novelty Company, will give the commencement address.
- 1 p.m. - the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology. Lisa A. Rossbacher, the president of Southern Polytechnic State University, will give the commencement address.

For more information on Fall 2004 Commencement, visit the Web site of the Registrar's Office at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/graduation.htm>.

Courtesy of: Georgia Southern University  
Office of Marketing and Communication

## **Fee Payment Reminder:**

### **Tuition and Fee Invoice Available Exclusively Online**

The online invoice resides on the Georgia Southern University website in [WINGS](#).

[WINGS](#) is home to much more student information than just the registration invoice; you can register for classes, view your schedule, check your financial aid status, display your grades and transcript, view Regent's test results, check housing application status and assignment information, and pay your charges via the web.

To access your online Registration Invoice,

- Enter [WINGS](#)
- You will need to enter student User ID and PIN. The user ID is the student ID number.
- Click on Student Services and Financial Aid
- Click on Registration Invoice and Web Payment
- Choose the term that you wish to view the invoice and submit
- The invoice for the term selected should appear

### **If you have questions, please contact the Office of Student Fees**

Phone: (912) 681-0999  
email: [stufee@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:stufee@georgiasouthern.edu)  
Mail: P. O. Box 8155  
Statesboro, GA 30460  
Location: 1st floor Deal Hall, Sweetheart Circle  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm

## **ON CAMPUS Accommodations for the 2005-06 academic year**

University housing is preparing to start Room Selection for the 2005-2006 academic year!

Room Selection is the process for current residents to pick their room assignment and their roommates for the 2005-2006 academic year. All Room Selection information will be available online to view beginning December 15 at [www.gsuhousing.com](http://www.gsuhousing.com).

*Proposed rates for a semester during the 2005-2006 academic year range from approximately \$1340 - \$1980 depending upon the type of housing selected. Exclusively upper-class housing will be offered in Kennedy Hall (apartments and suites), Watson Hall Commons (suites), Southern Pines (deluxe suites), Southern Courtyard (12 month contract, apartments) and Sanford Hall (apartments).*

Information will be mailed to students permanent mailing address over the Winter Break as well as to their Campus PO box in January.

Article Courtesy of: Georgia Southern University Housing  
November 28 edition of TWIRL

### **Microsoft scholarship allows student to attend major computer conference**

Georgia Southern University senior Tiavonna "Tia" Wright was one of only 50 students in the entire nation to receive a Microsoft Research Scholarship that included a trip to an important gathering of computer professionals. A computer science major from Savannah, Ga., Wright attended the 18th annual Large Installation System Administration (LISA) Conference that was held Nov. 14-19 in Atlanta.

The LISA Conference featured training classes taught by some of the most respected leaders in the computer science field as well as sessions that focused on groundbreaking research related to system and network administration.

"It was a rare and wonderful opportunity for a computer science major," Wright said. "I was able to apply what I've learned in class to real-world applications, and because the conference was attended by professionals, I was able to network and get information about possible employment or internships."

Robert Cook, the chair of the Computer Sciences Department at Georgia Southern and an instructor in one of Wright's classes, encouraged her to apply for the Microsoft scholarship. As part of the application process, Wright had to submit an essay detailing why she wanted to attend the LISA Conference.

"I explained that I was doing a senior project for the aforementioned class that involved advanced shell scripting, which was a major focal point at this year's conference," Wright said. "I was mainly interested in the session that involved how data is still stored on our hard drives once it has been deleted.

"That interested me because I like computers and because it can be used in the criminal justice field."

The trip to the LISA Conference was the latest activity in what has been a very busy fall semester for Wright, who is pursuing a minor in business with a concentration in management.

In October, she and several of her classmates maintained the audiovisual systems at the 34th annual Frontiers in Education (FIE) Conference held in Savannah. The FIE event promoted

innovations in computer science and engineering education. "We provided technical support for the conference presenters," Wright said. "For the most part, we were responsible for making sure the computers and projectors were set up correctly, and for making any small modifications as needed for each presenter. "For instance, if a presenter needed software that was not on the computer, we were responsible for attaining it for them."

Article Courtesy of: Georgia Southern University  
Office of Marketing and Communication

### **Georgia Southern hawk new mascot for Atlanta NBA team**

Clyde the Hawk is more than just any hawk; he is an Atlanta Hawk. A Harris Hawk from Georgia Southern University's Center for Wildlife Education, Clyde, now known as "Spirit," is the new live mascot for Atlanta's NBA basketball team.

Spirit made his premier appearance at Philips Arena earlier this month on the arm of Hawks Vice President and NBA Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins. Spirit is scheduled to appear at all Hawks home games.

"Right now, Spirit will appear at the games and be on display before the tip-off," said Steve Hein, the director of the Center for Wildlife Education. "In time, we look forward to Spirit making flights into the arena before enthusiastic crowds."

Flying before crowds will be nothing new for Spirit. He has been flying before groups at the Center and around the state for several years. "One of the reasons we selected a Harris Hawk for this project is, as a species, they are very intelligent," Hein said. "Once trained, they become very reliable and seldom get ruffled before large audiences."

Hein says Harris Hawks are native to the American Southwest. They are some of the only birds-of-prey known to work together and hunt cooperatively.

Spirit's new role as a professional sports mascot will mean a lot of mileage for Hein, who will carry him from Statesboro to Atlanta for all the Hawks' home games. "This is a great opportunity for the Wildlife Center and for Georgia Southern to show the people in the Atlanta area some of the great features we have here on campus," Hein said. Spirit is usually accompanied to the Philips Arena by some of his fellow birds-of-prey, who are also on display at the game.

"From our standpoint, education is the key to all this," Hein said. "By bringing Spirit and the other birds to the games, we hope to teach the fans, especially children, an appreciation of nature and wildlife. "When the young fans have the chance to see these birds up-close, we want it to be an impression that will stay with them long after the game is over."

Spirit has been well-received by the Hawks organization and fans. "We are injecting more energy and excitement into our game presentation and believe a live mascot helps instill more pride and excitement in our fans," said Jim Pfeifer, Hawks Vice President of Marketing, Advertising and Branding. "Young and old are responding to Spirit the Hawk, and through our partnership with

Georgia Southern University's Center for Wildlife Education, we are able to stress the importance of animal conservation and education while improving the overall entertainment experience."

Despite all the attention, Hein says Spirit is taking it all in stride. "As far as he is concerned, this is just business as usual," Hein said. "He's used to traveling and performing before crowds. He doesn't realize he's a star now."

Article Courtesy of: Georgia Southern University  
Office of Marketing and Communication

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**December 1-10 Book Buyback at the University Bookstore and the IT Store.**

**December 9 Statesboro-Georgia Southern Symphony Holiday  
Concert**, Russell Union Ballroom, 7 p.m.


**December 10 Fall 2004 Commencement**  
Georgia Southern University will conduct its Fall 2004  
Commencement on Friday, Dec. 10, in three separate ceremonies at  
Hanner Fieldhouse.

**December 10 Residence Halls close at 12 noon for Winter Break.**

**January 7 Residence Halls will reopen at 9:00 a.m.**

**Emily Chandler**  
**Coordinator, Off Campus Housing & Parent Programs**  
**Georgia Southern University**  
**PO Box 8096**  
**Statesboro, GA 30460**  
**Phone: 912 871-1987**  
**Fax: 912 871-1214**  
**Web: <http://students.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/outreach>**

# DECEMBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <b>Last Day of Classes</b>	4
5	6 <b>Final Exams</b>	7 <b>Final Exams</b>	8 <b>Final Exams</b>	9 <b>Final Exams</b>  <b>Holiday Concert</b> Statesboro-Georgia Southern Symphony, Russell Union Ballroom, 7 p.m.	10 <b>Commencement</b>   <b>Residence halls close at 12:00 p.m.</b>	11 <b>Men's Basketball-</b> Augusta State at Georgia Southern, 7:30 p.m. Hanner Fieldhouse
12	13 <b>Holiday Break for students begins</b>	14 <b>Holiday Break for students</b>	15 <b>Holiday Break for students</b> <b>Women's Basketball-</b> Mercer at Georgia Southern, 5:00 p.m. <b>Men's Basketball-</b> Arkansas State at Georgia Southern, 7:30 p.m. Hanner Fieldhouse	16 <b>Holiday Break for students</b>	17 <b>Holiday Break for students</b>	18 <b>Women's Basketball-</b> Western Carolina at Georgia Southern, 3:00 p.m. Hanner Fieldhouse
19	20 <b>Holiday Break for students</b>	21 <b>Holiday Break for students</b>	22 <b>Holiday Break for students</b>	23 <b>Holiday Break for students and Administrative Offices Closed</b>	24 <b>Holiday Break for students and Administrative Offices Closed</b>	25

26	27 Holiday Break for students and Administrative Offices Closed	28 Holiday Break for students and Administrative Offices Closed	29 Holiday Break for students and Administrative Offices Closed	30 Holiday Break for students	31 Holiday Break for students	
----	--	--	--	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

## JANUARY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>
2	3 Holiday Break for students and Administrative Offices Closed	4 Holiday Break for students  <b>Women's Basketball-</b> Chattanooga at Georgia Southern, 7:00 p.m.	5 Holiday Break for students	6 Holiday Break for students	7 Holiday Break for students  <b>Residence hall check in, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</b>	8
9	10 <b>Classes Begin</b>  <i>Spring 2005 FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE</i>  Drop/Add Schedule Adjustment	11 Drop/Add Schedule Adjustment	12 Drop/Add Schedule Adjustment	13	14	15
16	17 ML King Holiday-- <b>NO CLASSES</b> Admin Offices Closed	18	19	20	21	22