

GEORGIA SOUTHERN PARENT E-NEWS

NOVEMBER 2004

GREETINGS FROM PARENT PROGRAMS

I hope this e-mail finds you well. Please excuse double postings.

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GEORGIA SOUTHERN HOSTING GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR

Prospective graduate students from throughout Georgia were invited to Georgia Southern University's Fall 2004 Graduate School Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 9. The fair showcased more than 40 graduate programs and professional schools.

"This is one-stop shopping for someone interested in pursuing a master's, doctorate or professional degree," said organizer Amy Williams. "They can check out a number of programs all in one place and on one day."

Students or college graduates interested in applying to almost any type of graduate program attended the fair to gather information, get their questions answered and interview with a number of schools - all on the same day.

The Fall 2004 Graduate School Fair was co-sponsored by Georgia Southern's Averitt College of Graduate Studies and the Office of Career Services.

For more information, interested students can contact Amy Williams at 912-681-5197 or awilliams@georgiasouthern.edu. Additional information is also available at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career/>.

FLU VACCINE SHORTAGE AFFECTS GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Dr. Curtis Hames, chief of medical staff, said he hopes to obtain a shipment of the flu vaccine. "However, due to the shortage, we will also restrict the distribution of the vaccine to persons in the high-risk groups," Ferguson said. Those high-risk groups include:

- Adults ages 65 or older.
- Persons ages 2-64 with underlying chronic medical conditions.
- All women who will be pregnant during the flu season.
- Residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities.
- Children ages 6 months to 18 years who are on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Health care workers with direct patient care or contact, including the Health Services staff.
- Out-of-home caregivers, parents or household contacts of children less than 6 months of age.
- All children ages 6-23 months.

Certain groups of University students, faculty and staff may fall within these high-risk groups, such as those who work at the Family Life Center or nursing students on clinical rotations at hospitals, Ferguson said.

For additional information, contact Health Services at 681-5641.

BOARD OF REGENTS TACKLES MID-YEAR BUDGET CUTS -- PLAN OUTLINES HOW FUNDS WILL BE GENERATED TO AVOID MID-YEAR TUITION HIKE

ATLANTA - (Oct. 12) - A mid-year tuition hike for the University System of Georgia's (USG) 250,000-plus student body has been averted as a means of generating some of the revenue needed to accommodate the latest round of state budget cuts.

Weeks of planning and discussion by Board of Regents' officials have resulted in the identification of alternative means of generating the required \$68.7 million in cuts to the University System of Georgia's current budget. The USG's original share of the \$179.3 million in cuts sought from all state agencies' FY 2005 budgets was \$68.7 million. After a \$3.9 million adjustment from the state, the USG's amount was reduced to \$64.8 million.

The Board of Regents approved the plan for absorbing the cuts presented to them today by University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith.

A combination of three different "one-time" fund sources will be used instead of a tuition increase - along with \$20.3 million in continuing reductions to the University System's operating budget.

"This is a mixture of both good news and bad news," stated University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith. "On the one hand, we feel quite positive about mitigating the immediate financial impact a mid-year tuition increase would have had on our students. Still, we know the one-time cost cutting solutions we have identified are frankly stop-gap measures that

only temporarily solve our problems. We will have to find these dollars from other sources for our FY 2006 budget."

The \$20.3 million in reductions to the USG's operating budget will be identified via additional position eliminations, hiring freezes, delayed business purchasing, deferred maintenance, reduced operating hours and by hiring more part-time rather than full-time faculty to meet instructional demands - all impacts which will continue to hamper the University System's ability to deliver high-quality academic instruction in appropriately sized classrooms and facilities.

The largest single portion of the \$64.8 million in cuts will be absorbed by extracting nearly \$28 million from the University System's employee health-plan reserves -- reducing the fund from a recommended 60-day reserve to a 30-day level.

Another \$9.4 million will be generated by utilizing the matching-funds reserve previously set aside to construct the Merial research facility at the University of Georgia - a project that has been scrapped due to a change in plans by the private-sector entity that initially sought the cooperative venture with the state. Efforts are underway to identify another \$7 million in additional cuts.

Courtesy of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents
<http://www.usg.edu/news/2004/101204.phtml>

For additional budget information please refer to USG Budget Publication Series
<http://www.usg.edu/pubs/index.html>

What Counts? Quality Counts: The Return On Investment - September 2004
Why We Are Where We Are - September 2004

The University System of Georgia faces the challenge of closing the gap between a rising demand for its services and tight budgets. This report provides an overview of these key issues and the implications for the System and the State.

'CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL DISTINCTION'

Georgia Southern University launched its first major capital fund-raising campaign in over a decade with a black-tie gala Saturday evening. Titled "The Campaign for National Distinction," the project has the goal of raising \$40 million to help the University achieve its goal of being recognized as one of the top comprehensive universities in the nation. The "silent phase" of the campaign has already raised \$26 million towards that goal.

SOAR LEADER RECRUITMENT

Students can be a part of a Georgia Southern Tradition by: Becoming a SOAR Leader!
Applications are available now in Lewis Hall on Sweetheart Circle.

What is it like to be a SOAR Leader? How does the application process work? What are the benefits and the salary? Learn the answers to these questions and much more at SOAR Information Night, Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 pm in the Russell Union Commons.

Applications are due Friday, December 3, at 5:00 p.m. in the Office of Orientation in Lewis Hall on Sweetheart Circle. If you have questions, please feel free to call (912) 871-1987, email orientation@georgiasouthern.edu or visit <http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/orientation/leaders>

GIL EXPRESS

The libraries of the institutions in the University System of Georgia (USG) have implemented an automated system that gives authorized users quick and easy access to more than four million titles.

Called GIL Express, the new system allows USG faculty, staff and students to make online or in-person requests for any of the items contained in the general collections of 35 libraries throughout the state. Most requested materials are delivered within three days.

"GIL Express eliminates barriers to information access, making every book in the entire USG library system accessible to every USG library patron," said Mitchell, who is the Dean of the Zach Henderson Library at Georgia Southern University. "This is particularly relevant for distance learners and mobile library patrons, who can pick up items from any library and return them to any library."

GEORGIA SOUTHERN LIBRARY EXPANSION BEGINS

Work has begun on the long-awaited expansion of the Georgia Southern University Library. The \$22.7 million project will expand the size of the library by nearly 75 percent, adding 101,000 square feet to the existing 132,000 square feet. "We will have the capacity to maintain a 1.1 million materials collection on-site," said Bede Mitchell, Dean of the library. "However, we want to create a facility that moves away from simply warehousing materials and toward a model of seamless information access."

The project will more than triple the library's current seating capacity to nearly 3,000 seats.

"This is a much more suitable figure for a campus of almost 16,000 students," said Mitchell.

An automatic retrieval system will also be a part of the expansion project. The system will house little-used materials and free up open stack space for higher demand items.

"It will enable us to use one-seventh the amount of space required to house the same number of materials as needed in open stacks and at a fraction of the cost," said Mitchell.

When students need materials from the automatic system, they will place their requests in the online library catalog. Robotic technology will pull the appropriate bin of material out of storage

and send it to the circulation desk where the library staff will pull the requested book out of the bin and check it out to the patron. Mitchell says other libraries using the system have found the retrieval time is less than ten minutes.

The expansion will also include at least a dozen group study rooms, an increase from the current three, and a wireless network system, so library users with laptop or notebook computers can access the Internet without having to use one of the desktop computer stations.

According to Mitchell, the work, research and study components of the library will be designed to support active and reflective learning. "Both highly active and quiet spaces will be of equal importance," he said.

The library project will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, which will take approximately two years, the adjacent "Blue Building" will be razed and the additional wing will be constructed on the site. In the second phase the current structure's interior will be renovated and the exterior given a new façade to match other campus buildings.

Other than a loss of parking spaces, Mitchell does not anticipate library patrons will be seriously inconvenienced during phase one. However, during the second phase, which will take an additional year, most of the library material and services will have to be moved from the current structure to the new wing. Mitchell says his staff is working now to minimize any inconveniences this will cause.

The entire project is expected to take approximately three years.

"HOTEL PARADISO"

November 17 – 20, 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. - Theatre & Performance - "Hotel Paradiso" is a dazzlingly funny French frolic directed by Georgia Southern Communication Arts Professor James Harbour. Admission is \$3 for Georgia Southern students; \$6 for Georgia Southern faculty/staff, senior citizens and local students; and \$10 for general admission. Reservations are suggested. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 912-486-7999.

FAMILY FUNSHOP

November 20, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. – Family Funshop - "Flintknapping" is a way to learn about the ancient tools of flintknapping. Participants will try their hand at making real blades and arrow points. Museum. Pre-registration is required, call 912-681-5444.

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 1 – Registration for Spring 2005 begins for undergraduates (Students should view WINGS for individual date and time).

November 24 – 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday for students – Administrative offices closed

November 25 – 26 – Residence Halls open.

December 1 – Deadline for Spring Semester 2005 Undergraduate Admission Application

December 3 – Last day of classes

December 6 – 9 – Final Exams

December 9 – Final date for graduate and undergraduate students to apply for Spring 2005 Graduation

December 10 – Residence Halls close at 12:00 p.m.

December 13 – January 10 – Winter Break for students

CALENDAR:

NOVEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Free Health Screenings, and Food Drive Begin	2	3 Men's Soccer Vs. Mercer @ 3 p.m.	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Robert Dana (award winning poet) 7 p.m.	12 Food Drive Ends	13 Volleyball Vs. Wofford @ 7 p.m.
14 Volleyball Vs. Furman @ 2 p.m.	15	16	17 Hotel "Paradiso" (First Night) 8 p.m.	18	19 Swimming and Diving Vs. Campbell @ TBA	20 Family FunShop 2 – 4 p.m. Hotel "Paradiso" (Last Night) 8 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25 Women's Basketball Vs. Savannah State @ 7p.m.	26	27 Basketball: Women's Vs. Davidson @ 5 p.m. Men's Vs. Brewton Parker @ 7:30p.m.
28	29	30				

- All games listed are HOME GAMES.

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