



Greetings from Parent Programs

September Newsletter

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Parents Association Membership

This newsletter is compliments of the Office of Parent Programs and is made available each month to our Parents Association members. Georgia Southern University recognizes the importance of parent involvement and wants to keep you informed of the latest news at GSU. If you would like to become more involved in your child's college experience please join the Parents Association. There is a \$30 membership fee which includes a monthly email newsletter, Georgia Southern Magazine, scholarship opportunities, local and national discounts, and much more. Find out more information on our website: http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/parent/parents_association.htm

Family Weekend -- October 13-15, 2006

Please join us at Georgia Southern University for a weekend of many exciting activities. Festivities begin Friday evening with a sampling of delicious sweets and pastries prepared by students in the Hotel and Restaurant Management degree program at our Dessert Reception. On Saturday morning everyone will gather at Paulson Stadium for the pre-game tailgate. Afterwards, it will be time to cheer for the Georgia Southern Eagles as they host the Elon University Phoenix. Putt-Putt, movies, and theatre performances are just a few more exciting events taking place during Family Weekend. You must register in advance; the registration deadline is Sunday, October 8th. More information is available on the Family Weekend website: http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/parent/schedule_fall06.html

Written by: Emily Chandler

NOTE: Tickets will not be mailed. Tickets, t-shirts and other Family Weekend materials can be picked up during check-in on Friday, October 13 from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom pre-function area. If this is not possible, you may pick up the materials on Saturday morning between 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the pre-game tailgate at Paulson Stadium.



Family Weekend tickets, t-shirts and materials will not be available for sale at the tailgate.

**Association Sponsors Guest Speaker:
Peter Bielas**

The Parents Association is assisting with the funding of the First Year Experience Success Series. Peter Bielas, author of *Getting Loaded: A Complete Personal Finance Guide For Students and Young Professionals* returned to campus this Fall to present “Jump Start Your Personal Finances.” Bielas explained how to fix credit report errors, discussed credit cards and their use, how to invest and more.



Additionally, Bielas took time to chat one-on-one with students who had questions. When Bielas was a college student he accrued \$5,000 in credit card debt during his freshman year. Resolving to get out of debt he began learning about personal finance, read more than 300 books on the topic, interviewed experts and attended seminars. He graduated debt-free. For more information on the speaker, visit his website: <http://www.peterbelspeaks.com/>.

Written by: Emily Chandler, Edited by Laura Alford

University Offers Students New Online Payment Options

Georgia Southern University has introduced two new online options that students can use to pay for their tuition, fees, housing, and meal plans. Students who wish to use a credit card to pay for their student accounts can do so electronically through a third party that has partnered with the University. TouchNet is providing its PayPath Tuition Service, which accepts American Express, Discover and MasterCard. In addition, the University now offers WebCheck, which allows students to make payments by electronic check from their checking or savings accounts. Students can continue to make check and cash payments in person at the Office of Student Fees or mail their checks to the office.

As of August 1, the University will only be accepting credit card payments online for the following student accounts: tuition, fees, housing and meal plans. “Many colleges and universities across the nation have chosen to

discontinue the acceptance of credit cards for these account payments due to rising expense,” said Georgia Southern Bursar Kim Thompson. “By no longer accepting credit cards for the payment of student accounts, we will save an estimated \$450,000 annually in processing fees. This money will be redirected into academic programs and student services.”

Students who use their credit cards via TouchNet will be assessed a convenience fee of 2.75 percent. Georgia Southern does not control this fee, nor does the University receive any of the proceeds. For more information, visit the Office of Student Fees Web site at <http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/bursar/osf/studentfeepage.html>

Written by: Mark Holland



Performing Arts: Vickie Lawrence Guest Appearance

A popular comedienne, actress, and singer is bringing her many talents to the Performing Arts Center at Georgia Southern University. "Vickie Lawrence and Mama: A Two Woman Show" will appear at the Performing Arts Center on Friday, September 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Lawrence won an Emmy Award for her work on the long running "Carol Burnett Show," and she later starred in the sitcom "Mama's Family." She also earned a gold record in 1973 for the hit single "The Nights Went Out In Georgia."



With Lawrence appearing as herself and as Mama, her Two-Woman show features stand-up comedy, music, and general observations about real life. Tickets for Vickie Lawrence are \$35 plus tax per person for the general public. Georgia Southern faculty, staff, and students will receive a 10 percent discount. To purchase tickets or obtain additional information, call (912) 486-7999 or toll free (866) PAC-ARTS, or visit the PAC website: <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/pac>.

High Enrollment and Record SAT Scores

Georgia Southern began this academic year with the most highly qualified freshman class in school history. President Bruce Grube made the announcement during his eighth annual State of the University Address, which was part of the Fall Convocation Ceremony held on Wednesday, August 9, in the Performing Arts Center.

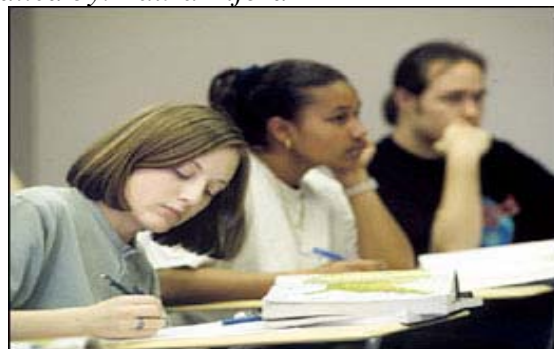
The University's final fall enrollment was approximately 16,600 students. That number paralleled last year's record of 16,646 students established in Fall 2005.

Numbers also reveal that the average SAT score for the members of this year's freshman class exceeded 1,100 for the first time in school history. Last fall's freshman class had an average SAT score of 1,098, which was the highest such figure ever at Georgia Southern.

This fall marks the 12th consecutive year that the average SAT score of the incoming freshman soared over the previous fall semester. Georgia Southern is one of only 18 four-year institutions in the University System of Georgia to report such an increase. The average SAT score of the incoming freshman at Georgia Southern as increased by more than 110 points since Grube became president.

Written by: Mark Holland

Edited by: Laura Alford



“A Day for Southern” Bulloch County helps Georgia Southern Meet Another Record Setting Goal

The 2006 edition of “A Day for Southern” continued the growing tradition of Georgia Southern University. Bulloch County’s business and professional community contributed a record setting \$1,271,823 to the University during the 33rd annual one-day fund drive on Tuesday, September 12. 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, which was established in 2005.



Proceeds from “A Day for Southern” go to the Georgia Southern University Foundation and Southern Boosters, two not-for-profit organizations that build the University’s “margin of excellence” in academic and athletics. “Together We’re Better” was the theme for the 2006 campaign, which was chaired by Dr. H. William Perry, who served as pastor of First Baptist Church until his retirement in 2004. Some 200 volunteers solicited donations from approximately 1,100 members of the Bulloch County business and professional community during this year’s event. 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. In addition, “A Day for Southern” proceeds are used to support cultural and educational attractions like the Botanical Garden, the Georgia Southern Museum, the Performing Arts Center, and the Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q. Ball Raptor Center. “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. For more information on “A Day for Southern,” call (912) 681-5680.

Written by: Loretta Brandon

Admissions Receptions

The Office of Admissions will be visiting cities in Georgia and Florida to host dessert receptions and information sessions for prospective students and families.

The Parents Association will be hosting a meet and greet for Association Members before each reception. You will be invited to stick around to share your story with other parents who will be attending. More information will be available in the October newsletter. If you are interested in attending, please email Parent Programs at parent@georgiasouthern.edu.

If you would like to let Georgia Southern know about a prospective student, visit <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/parent/referafriend.htm>.

Reception Dates:

Oct. 25 - Columbus, GA

Oct. 26 - Albany, GA

Nov. 1 - Macon/ Houston
County

Nov. 2 - Atlanta, GA

Nov. 7 - Jacksonville, FL