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parentprograms
newsletter

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Erin Campbell, Assistant Director of Admissions, Orientation, and Parent Programs. I have been working in the Office of Admissions for over two years now, and originally served as the Coordinator of Orientation and Parent Programs, working closely with our SOAR Leaders. Originally from Texas, I attended Texas Christian University where I received my bachelor's degree in Communication Studies, then went to the University of South Carolina to earn my Masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration. I look forward to getting to know you better as the year progresses!

Campus has once again come alive with Move-In, Welcome Week activities, and students walking up and down the pedestrian to and from classes. Fall semester is in full swing and great things are happening at Georgia Southern University! Many students returned to campus after a summer away and were excited to see the completion of Centennial Place, a new residence hall on campus featuring a retail corridor. In addition to the 1,001 beds added to campus, the residence hall also hosts The Market at Centennial Place (formally known as the Pickle Barrel in Landrum), Cold Stone Creamery, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Optical Express, and the Eagle Print Shop. I've especially enjoyed visiting Cold Stone Creamery on those hot summer days. When you visit, don't forget to tip... you'll receive a song from the staff as a thank you!

Another thing students came back to this fall is living in close proximity with others and the health risks associated with that. Some of you have been inquiring about the H1N1 (swine) flu and hopefully you received e-mails from our office with updates (if not, make sure parent@georgiasouthern.edu isn't going into your spam folder). It is easy to hear reports and speculations and become alarmed, especially when it concerns the health of your student. Please trust that Georgia Southern is monitoring the virus very closely. If your student reports that he/she is feeling ill or has a fever, advise him/her to visit Health Services.

On a more positive note, I'd like to say a special hello to all of our Parents Association members! Thank you for your support. Check your mail in the upcoming weeks for your Parents Association membership packet. I am also proud to announce that the Parents Association was able to award \$18,000 in scholarships this year! What a great way to support Georgia Southern students!

I'm excited to bring you the first fall 2009 edition of our monthly newsletter! In it, you'll find more details about Welcome Week, information about Condoleezza Rice's visit to campus, and the names of our Parents Association Scholarship winners. Happy reading!

Sincerely,



Erin Campbell

P.S. Don't forget to register for Fall Family Weekend before October 1st!

Scholarship Winners Announced!



We are pleased to announce this year's Parents Association Scholarship recipients. There were unprecedented numbers of applicants this year. Scholarship committees reviewed over 220 student applications. Applications were very competitive this year and committees considered many applicants with very commendable leadership and volunteer activities and academic achievements. Students were able to apply for an academic or leadership scholarship. Academic scholarships reward students for excellence in the classroom, while Leadership scholarships reward students for exceptional leadership activities, volunteer efforts, and community involvement. The Parents Association was able to award \$18,000 in scholarships this year!

Continuing Student Leadership Scholarships were awarded to: Sarah Sullivan, Paul Tenzel, Laura Burch, Karen Nowling, Briton Lanier, and Merrie Allyson Lumpkin

Continuing Student Academic Scholarships were awarded to: Michael Edward Palmese, Jessica Spaleta, Christine Vitiello, David Robeck, Veronika Urbina, and Karley Weiner

New Student Leadership Scholarship were awarded to: Darion Wilson, Brett Nasta, Ariel Reynolds, Will David Turner, Alayna Baer, and Aaron Steede

New Student Academic Scholarships were awarded to: Nicole Robyn Neumeier, Katherine Olive, Christine Fite, Mary Beth Edwards, Taylor Alise Brown, and Sarah Farmer

We thank all students for their applications and encourage all students of Parents Association members to apply next academic year for these scholarships. Applications for 2010-2011 scholarships will be available May 2010. This year's scholarship recipients will be recognized at Fall Family Weekend (Oct 16-18) during the Annual General Membership Meeting, immediately following the Parents Association Breakfast. Congratulations to all Scholarship recipients!

Fall Family Weekend is fast approaching. The 2009 Fall Family Weekend will be held October 16-18. All parents and family members of University students are invited to campus for a weekend of activities and events that are specially planned just for you! If you only visit campus once this semester, Fall Family Weekend will be the perfect opportunity for you to travel to Statesboro to enjoy visiting with your student while also

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Fall Family Weekend

attending fun and exciting activities and events tailored for the whole family. Fall Family Weekend reservations will include a T-shirt, discounts to local attractions, admittance into a dessert reception at the Center for Art & Theatre on campus, Parents Association breakfast and general membership meeting, Pre-game Tailgate at Paulson Stadium, as well as a Georgia Southern vs. UT Chattanooga football game ticket. There will be many other exciting activities to be announced as we approach closer to the date. To make your Fall Family Weekend reservations, please visit: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/parent/fallfamilyweekend.htm>

Phone reservations may be made by calling the Office of Parent Programs at: (912) 478-7627.

New Student Send-Offs

Student Send-Off events serve to help students and their families prepare for the transition to college by meeting other new students and families from their same geographic area before the start of fall semester. In addition to making connections with others, these events also serve to inform new students about what to expect as a student at Georgia Southern. Although each Send-Off event is unique due to individual planning and preparations by host families, the unifying theme of these events is to create connections amongst new students and families coming into Georgia Southern. Summer Send-Off events have been held in backyards, community centers, parks, and restaurants. Although they are all different to some degree, each event provides valuable insight to incoming students in the weeks before moving to campus. This year Send-Off events were held in the Augusta/Evans county area, South Atlanta, Conyers, and Jacksonville. Special thanks to all volunteers and hosts for providing the services to make these events a great success. Interested in hosting an event next year? Let us know by emailing parent@georgiasouthern.edu.

View the Send-Off host guide at: http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/parent/association/student_sendoff_handbook.html



The start of fall semester signals transitional periods for all college students. Whether your student is a beginning freshman or an upperclassman, there will be some major adjustments and decisions to be made. First year students will need to adjust to their new surroundings, living away from home, and changes in daily routines. These students will also need to adjust to new academic expectations and teachers. Academically speaking, your student may transition to college coursework easily. While the coursework and subjects will be similar to those in high school, your student may need to create routines and study habits to accommodate the faster paced instruction and greater amounts of homework. The major issue for your first year student in the beginning months will be to develop positive study routines and organizational techniques for when classes become more time consuming later in the semester. Encourage your student to attend every class session and take diligent notes. Your student should also make it a point to get to know his/her professors. Starting the semester off with good study habits will help to ensure that your student does not fall behind in coursework. There will be many distractions for the first few weeks of classes and it will be important for your student to meet new friends, take advantage of fun activities offered through the Student Activities Office, Greek Life organizations, and student interest organizations. These groups provide valuable social and networking opportunities. However, there should be a healthy balance between academics and social activities.

Transition to College

Upperclassmen will also need to transition back to the obligations of school work at the beginning of the school year. While upperclassmen have usually become more independent and adjusted to college life, there will be a need to re-invest in those good study habits that have served them well thus far. Attending each class meeting and following routines will positively serve these students as well. Upperclassmen will need to begin giving careful consideration to important upcoming decisions such as selecting a major, finding internship opportunities, and thinking about post graduate decisions and employment.

As a parent you may assist your student by offering support and encouragement while your student makes this important transition. Your student will learn about many great campus resources and assistance groups in the coming weeks. While it is unlikely that your student will feel the need for these services now, remind him/her that those services may prove useful later in the semester. Parents also have access to some great resources. If you are a Parents Association member, the Parent Message Board provides excellent information about the college transition. If you are experiencing anxieties or have questions, other parents

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on the Message Board may be able to offer personal accounts or guidance to help you through this period. There are also a variety of campus department personnel who keep an eye on the Message Board if you ask a specific question that applies to their area of expertise.

Also, don't forget to check out the online resources located on the Parent Programs website: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/parent/resources.html>

A Message from Academic Advisement

Major Exploration and Questions

During the first weeks and months for a new student at Georgia Southern, exciting opportunities appear almost daily. Many students begin their academic career at the university with a declared major, but not all students really know for certain if they are in the right spot! And if your student is one of the nearly 900 undeclared freshmen at Georgia Southern, the process of exploring all of the various majors is likely beginning right now. It is an expected and normal process if your student begins to revisit his or her educational goals once arriving at college.

All advisement centers can provide guidance and assistance to students wondering "am I in the right major?" In addition to questions about curriculum requirements, many questions regarding potential career or post-graduation education options can be answered by academic advisement staff. The First-Year Experience Office specifically works with all undeclared students for major exploration and advisement, but is also available to declared students with questions about how to go about the "major exploration" process.

Encourage your student to attend the 2009 Majors Fair, September 24, 2009 from 10:00a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom.

Hosted by First-Year Experience, this event will provide current students a chance to meet faculty, advisors and current students from the many majors here! Encourage your student to attend this wonderful event to help them explore the exciting degree and career options available for Georgia Southern students!

Link of the Month: Online resources for major exploration <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/fye/majorselect.htm>

CHECK OUT MAJORS,
MINORS AND
CONCENTRATIONS!

**MAJORS
FAIR**

Thursday, September 24
10:00 - 2:00 @ R.U. Ballroom

For more information
call 912 - GSU - FYEX

Sponsored by First-Year Experience

Immediately following Operation Move-In on August 14th families and students were invited back to the Recreation Activity Center (RAC) to enjoy their first Georgia Southern tradition - the Welcome Week Cookout. The cookout provides a much needed break from the hard work of getting moved into residence halls, but it also signals the beginning of a weekly designation of special events designed for students during their first week of fall courses at Georgia Southern. As a parent, you may have attended the cookout- but may not be aware of the other exciting events that were provided to your student during the first week of school. Each of these events was designed to help your student relax after class and get acclimated to college life through a diverse lineup of campus activities. These events occurred at no charge to your student and served to not only help your student to meet new friends, but also to become more aware of the many exciting Student Activities events that will continue to occur this semester. These events were spread throughout the week so that your student would have a campus event to attend each day if desired. A few of the many activities included in this year's Welcome Week were: a free outdoor movie on Sweetheart circle, Eagles night out (food, games, and music at the RAC), A Taste of Statesboro (free sampling of local restaurants), Indoor Laser Tag at the Russell Union, Ice Cream Mixer, Casino Night, Welcome Week Block Party (music, food, games, inflatable waterslides), Canoe and Kayak clinic at Lake Wells, and a Comedy Night. Instruct your student to keep an eye out for upcoming Student Activities events this semester, (there will be many more) and best of all, most of them occur free of charge..



Alumni Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center was held on August 27th. The Bishop Alumni Center is located on Akins Boulevard, adjacent to the RAC athletic fields. The alumni center will serve to welcome alumni and guests to the University as well as provide conference and meeting facilities for campus groups. The Alumni Center will open its doors this fall to Alumni members during select Eagle Football games. In addition to housing the Office of Alumni Relations, the new Alumni Center also accommodates the University Welcome Center, Offices of Advancement Services, Annual Giving, Foundation Accounting, Governmental Relations, and the Office of Development.



Georgia Southern University and the Statesboro community are honored to have Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visit campus. Rice was invited to Georgia Southern University as a guest speaker to students, faculty, and staff members. Rice's September 8th visit includes an address to the student body concerning the importance of leadership today, as well as a brief question and answer session with the former politician. Students have been able to obtain tickets to this event free of charge. The almost immediate disbursement of tickets is evidence of Rice's popularity as a political figure and the strong desire of students to hear her speak.

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Condoleezza Rice Visits Campus



Rice currently serves as the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution and professor of political science at Stanford University. She also serves as a member of the board of trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In addition, she is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Rice's visit to Georgia Southern University is co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. The program is sponsored by AT&T with support from Target.

Remind your student to be on the lookout for future speakers and sponsored events throughout the semester. These events are sponsored by various campus departments and most often occur at no additional cost to students. Keynote speakers are invited to campus throughout the year to address pertinent topics to students that include leadership, community involvement, communication, finance, study skills, self-help skills, and professional and personal development. A primary purpose of many campus presentations is to educate and motivate students to become better students and civic leaders, inform students about important issues in today's society, as well as many events and presentations that simply serve to help your student unwind and relax through entertainment and comedy. Notable recent campus speeches have been presented to students by: Actor- Ed Begley, Astronaut and Commander of Apollo 13- Captain James Lovell, CNN Executive Producer- Peter Dykstra, Pulitzer Prize winning author- Gordon Wood, Civil Rights leader- Morris Dees, Journalist- Lisa Ling, American scholar and Princeton Professor- Cornel West, and even a visit by former President George W. Bush.

Summer Enrollment



Summer enrollment figures for 2009 have been released and Georgia Southern set a new record with 9,892 students attending summer courses. Summer school attendance increased by almost 25 percent from 8,890 during the summer of 2008.

"Georgia Southern is continuing to attract outstanding students at record levels," said Bruce Grube, President of Georgia Southern University. "We expect the trend of higher levels of summer enrollment to continue as more and more students take advantage of the course offerings."

Not only are more students remaining in Statesboro during the summer months, but the University is also offering more course options than ever before for students to 'get ahead' in their respective programs of study. Enrollment figures for fall 2009 have not yet been officially released; however University enrollment is expected to be well over 18,000 students. More information concerning 2009 fall enrollment will follow in future issues of the Parent Programs Newsletter.

The Question of the Month



**Would you be interested in joining a
Parent Programs Facebook Group?**

- Yes, I would be interested in the joining the group.
- Yes, I would create a Facebook account to join this group.
- No, I would not be interested in joining the group.
- No, do not have a Facebook account.

Have
Questions
for us?

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