Outside The Classroom Walls:
Learning Through Experience And Service

SGSC Athletes Shine At Local, Regional And National Levels
Greetings!

Personally, I love education. I love seeing students succeed and having meaningful experiences that will go with them through life. I delight in hearing the cheers of victory and the seeing high fives of teammates. I appreciate walking around campus and observing the changes to our legacy buildings. These are the reasons I enjoy all the wonderful things happening at South Georgia State College.

In the year since our last edition of SPOTLIGHT was released, we have celebrated the completion of the renovation of Davis Hall and have been approved for funding to start work on Powell Hall, both original legacy buildings on the Douglas Campus. The Bachelor of Science in Long-term Healthcare Management has been added, bringing the total number of bachelor programs to four. Championships have been won, and faculty, staff and students have been recognized for their hard work and dedication.

The athletes have been putting their best forward by earning titles and accolades, both for their individual sports and academic accomplishments. In addition, these and other students have ventured outside the classroom for meaningful educational experiences, as well as service and leadership opportunities.

We want you, our SGSC alumni and friends, to see the great things happening through the stories in this issue. The past sets the stage, and now we can build on the foundation established by you to create opportunities for success for our current students.

Continue to share your feedback and ideas and let me know what you would like to include in future issues. Don’t hesitate to give me a call, send me an email or drop a note in the mail. I’d love to hear from you!

Enjoy this issue of SPOTLIGHT and keep in touch!

Sincerely,
Amy Hancock
(912) 260-4461
amy.hancock@sgsc.edu

Comments or suggestions:
South Georgia State College
Office of External Affairs
100 West College Park Drive
Douglas, GA 31533
912.260.4461
amy.hancock@sgsc.edu

South Georgia State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of South Georgia State College.

Cover Photo: Phi Theta Kappa members, Alexandra Cardial and Zac Eiz, explored Kansas City, Missouri when attending the annual convention.

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In reflecting on this past year, I am humbled by the confidence entrusted to me to serve in this role as president of South Georgia State College. I consider this to be one of the greatest challenges and honors in my professional journey thus far. With that, I feel a responsibility to hold true to our vision to “attract, prepare, and graduate students who will accomplish their career goals and lead the region to economic success.”

We have exactly what it takes to carry out that vision. Our faculty and staff play an important role in embracing our historic past while moving forward in earnest to bring technological advances and innovative teaching practices to our students so they will have the tools to thrive and succeed.

In this issue, you will see many of our accomplishments from this past year. We have much to be proud of; and I want to take this opportunity to thank our many partners and supporters who have helped South Georgia State College shine. I am also very excited about our strategic focus over the next year and look forward to sharing those with you.

As our strongest enthusiasts and cheerleaders for this institution, I challenge and encourage you to become involved, support our work and remain devoted to the mission of preparing students to be able to leave us with the skills necessary to move forward with the assurance of a bright future.

I value your continued dedication to South Georgia State College and ask that you join us in adding your voice to our story.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D.
President

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**SGSC Celebrates the History of Davis Hall**

August 25, 2017, marked the beginning of a new era for South Georgia State College. An overflow crowd was on hand to celebrate and cut the ribbon, opening the recently completed renovations of Davis Hall, one of the college’s three original buildings on the Douglas Campus, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Built in 1907, Davis Hall opened as a women’s dormitory, then converted to classroom space in the 1970s. Recognizing the historical significance of the building, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved a state-allocated $2.5 million major repair and renovation project. Allstate Construction oversaw the renovation, and with the assistance of architectural firm, Studio 8 Design, painstakingly preserved as much of the original architectural elements as possible: restoring wooden floors and bannisters, returning ceilings to their original height, and even uncovering and replacing original front portico windows which hadn’t been seen in decades.

In her opening remarks, SGSC president, Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers said, “Oh, if only these walls could talk, they would perhaps tell us an interesting story of our history, legacy, leadership and vision.”

The renovation brings a variety of technology and layout changes to the space, which now offers enhanced teaching and learning experiences for SGSC students as well as increased utility efficiencies for the institution. A new lecture hall accommodates more than 150 students using state-of-the-art technology as a Technology Enable Active Learning (TEAL) classroom, and students will not have to go far to speak with faculty and staff who are now housed in 12 office spaces within the building.

On hand to show support for the college and celebrate the transformation of the building were Tricia Chastain, executive vice chancellor and Michael Miller, program manager and historic preservation officer from the University System of Georgia, Dominic LaRiccia representing Georgia’s District 169, senior executives from the construction and design firms, Andrea Taylor, past president of the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Authority and SGSC’s Johnathon Mykal Lewis, SGA president, Douglas Campus.

Alumni including Dr. Jim Cottingham, whose father, Dr. Tom Cottingham, taught at the college, and Diana Smith Highsmith, daughter of former college president William S. Smith, reminisced about their time at the college and the experiences they shared while living in the dorms.

“I came to live in what I call the President’s apartment in the first floor right wing of Davis Hall with my family as a five year-old little girl in 1947,” said Highsmith. “At Christmas, Daddy would have the magnolia tree just outside our apartment covered with outdoor Christmas lights. It was a highlight for me; it was so beautiful, but nothing compared with homecoming! I only have happy memories of life in Davis Hall and the college campus.”

“The number of students seeking admission to the college is growing with the inclusion of traditional students attending both the Douglas and Waycross Campuses, Dual Enrollment students attaining college credit before high school graduation and non-traditional students taking online courses,” continued Thompson-Sellers.

“The legacy of Davis Hall began 110 years ago,” she concluded. “Since then, thousands of students have passed through these halls, in addition to other presidents and hundreds of faculty and staff. Today, our students have the opportunity to study in a safe space within a modern infrastructure that includes an enriched learning environment.”

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Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, SGSC president, welcomes the guests to the ribbon cutting.

Guests gather on the steps of the newly renovated Davis Hall to celebrate the ribbon cutting.

Diana Smith Highsmith and Dr. Jim Cottingham
Sandra Adams Wins Gold At USG Customer Service Excellence Awards

SGSC’s Residence Life and Housing Coordinator Sandra Adams was awarded with the Gold medal distinction and named Outstanding Individual of the Year at the University System of Georgia Chancellor’s Service Excellence Awards in December 2017. The award was presented during a ceremony in the Champion’s Club at the Georgia State Stadium in Atlanta. Adams was nominated for her commitment to the students of SGSC and her continued desire to make their home away from home an exciting and positive experience. Her work with the R.I.S.E (Retention Involves Student Empowerment) Program and the Safe Space Program has been instrumental with lives being changed and students receiving the support needed to be successful in their collegiate pursuits at SGSC. In addition, she encourages students to give back to the community through service projects and has formed numerous partnerships to provide students with opportunities to volunteer.

Douglas-Coffee Chamber of Commerce Selects SGSC As 2018 Community Partner Of The Year

South Georgia State College (SGSC) was honored with the first-ever Community Partner of the Year award by the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented at the 2018 Annual Event held by the Chamber in January 2018. The College has been a part of the Douglas and Coffee County community since the early 1900’s, originally known as the Eleventh District Agricultural and Mechanical School. In the 1930’s the name changed to South Georgia College and now it is South Georgia State College, which was created by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on January 8, 2013 from the consolidation of South Georgia College in Douglas, Ga. and Waycross College in Waycross, Ga.

SGSC Ranked As #2 For The Most Affordable Nursing Degree In Georgia

SGSC has received the distinction of being named “#2 for Most Affordable Nursing Degrees in Georgia” by College Choice, a leading authority in college and university rankings. The SGSC School of Nursing is approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing, and the Associate of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). South Georgia State College is part of the University System of Georgia, offering twenty pathway programs and two additional baccalaureate degrees in Biological Sciences and Management. SGSC has campuses in Douglas and Waycross, along with entry programs in Valdosta and Americus.

South Georgia State College Unveils New Hawks Bus

South Georgia State College (SGSC) was gifted with a 56-passenger luxury coach by the former Darton State College, now Albany State University and given a new look complete with a custom wrap showcasing the SGSC logo and imagery. The bus is a great asset for the athletic teams and is also used to connect students at each campus. It has become a rolling billboard for SGSC and our athletic programs, and it can be seen often traveling through the state of Georgia.

SGSC School Of Nursing Boasts 98% Pass Rate For 2017 NCLEX Exam

The 2017 graduating class from the School of Nursing scored a 98% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. This standardized exam is given to registered nurse graduates in order to determine whether or not they are qualified to practice entry-level nursing. Graduates are required to pass the exam before they are considered eligible for a nursing license. SGSC offers the LPN-RN Bridge, Associate of Science in Nursing and the RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN). Application to the program is competitive and the nursing curriculum is very rigorous. Many of our graduates enjoy great career opportunities in the profession of nursing and continue their education journey to become nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives and nurse anesthetists.
Davis Hall Received Statewide Preservation Award From The Georgia Trust For Historic Preservation

The newly renovated Davis Hall on the Douglas Campus of SGSC received an award for Excellence in Rehabilitation from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation during its 41st annual Preservations Awards Ceremony April 27th in Columbus, Ga. This award recognizes projects that make compatible use of a building through repair, alterations or additions while preserving features of the property that convey its historic value. The Trust works for the preservation and revitalization of Georgia’s diverse historic resources and advocates their appreciation, protection and use. Accepting the award for SGSC was Ms. Walda Kight, vice president for external affairs.

South Georgia State College Approved For State Funding To Renovate Powell Hall

South Georgia State College (SGSC) will once again have the means to renovate and update one of its original buildings. When Governor Nathan Deal signed the state budget for 2019, the appropriation of $3.1 million in state funds was included to renovate Powell Hall.

Powell Hall is one of three legacy buildings on the Douglas Campus and built in 1906 at the founding of South Georgia College. As the third of the college’s original campus buildings, Powell Hall was initially constructed to house the men’s dormitory. Over the years, the use of the 11,624 square feet changed to hold classrooms and office space. The building has undergone multiple renovations, most recently in 1978. It currently houses the Academic Success Center, along with offices for student life, counseling and disability services. Through this state funding, Powell Hall will be enhanced to create state-of-the-art, flexible classrooms, faculty offices and improved academic support spaces. Because of its significance to the campus, plans will be put in place to preserve and optimize its historical integrity while providing better energy efficiency and up-to-date technology. The project will use the space to create facilities that focus on the success of our students and provide them with the support services they need at SGSC.

SGSC Gains Approval For New Bachelor Of Science In Long-Term Healthcare Management

South Georgia State College (SGSC) President Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers is pleased to announce the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents approved a new Bachelor of Science in Long-Term Healthcare Management for SGSC. The new bachelor’s degree expands academic offerings at SGSC, which includes the Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences (BSBS), Management (BSM), and Nursing (BSN), as well as a number of Associate of Arts and Associate of Science pathways designed for transfer to other bachelor’s degree programs.

To be housed in and administered by the SGSC School of Nursing, the Long-Term Healthcare Management degree will develop skills and knowledge for managers of long-term healthcare services in order to meet the needs of patients and families in homes, community agencies and long-term care facilities. It will focus on serving the aging, as well as individuals of any age who live with acute and chronic physical and mental disorders. The program curriculum will provide graduates with the skill set to address a variety of healthcare concepts and practices, such as developmental disabilities across the lifespan, adult health, aging, acute care, subacute care, chronic disease management, mental health issues, disease management, health promotion and health restoration.

PTK Students And Advisor Win Regional And National Awards

SGSC chapters on both the Douglas and Waycross Campuses were awarded five star status in the chapter development plan, the highest ranking that can be received. Each chapter was awarded a Theme Award for their Honors in Action project. By participating in a chapter’s Honors in Action Project, members have opportunities to apply learning and practice real-world problem-solving by developing an in-depth, action-oriented project related to research of an Honors Study Topic. Individual awards went to Alexandra Cardiel with the Sarah Anne Staples award and to Zac Elz with the Hall of Honor award. Kathryn Mancil was selected to receive the student scholarship to attend Honors Institute at Villanova University in Pennsylvania this summer. Advisor Amy Hancock received a Distinguished Advisor award. The Alpha Rho Omega chapter was elected to serve as the presidential chapter for the Georgia region for the 2018-2019 term and be the host chapter for next year’s spring regional conference.

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South Georgia State College (SGSC) students discover some of their most transformative experiences happen beyond the classroom walls. Because of this, the faculty and staff create ways of facilitating these experiences to offer academic and personal growth and maximize their time on campus. Regardless of their career path, students find activities that fit with their interests or cause them to stretch beyond their limits and try something new.

During the past year, students have stepped on the swampy soil of Okefenokee State Park, collected litter at nearby riverbanks and streams and explored historical sites. They have collected food and school supplies to restock the college’s pantry for students in need, sorted and organized items at the local food bank and spent hours tutoring and mentoring children at local afterschool programs. All of this serves as an extension of their classroom studies or as a way to give back to the community.
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society students attend conferences and leadership institutes such as the one at Loyola Lake Shore in Chicago during the summer.

The Cultural Exchange Club is active on and off campus. Faculty advisors plan events such as Hootenanny, a field day of fun for students. They also take the group on educational trips like the one in Atlanta to celebrate the Chinese New Year in Chinatown. The Environmental Awareness Club advisors take students on field trips to Sunbelt Greenhouses and Okefenokee Swamp Park and spend time with elementary and middle school students at the Boys and Girls Club in town.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society students are given the opportunity to expand their leadership potential by attending events throughout the year. Along with conferences in Georgia, students have attended the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri and Honors Institute in Chicago, Illinois this past year. For many of these students, it may be the first time traveling this far away from Georgia, and they are able to experience new sights and sounds as they tour the host cities and places along the way. At each of the conferences, the students are able to learn about service and participate in service activities for others such as making decorated boxes with basic necessities inside to give to women in homeless shelters.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Center took a large group of students to participate in Museum Day Live! at Jacksonville’s Museum of Science and History (MOSH). In addition, they hosted the first “STEM Café” featuring a scientist and physicist from the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA). Dr. Weiping Yu’s presentation was entitled, “The STEM Education and Space Exploration” and included demonstrations of gravity’s effect on Earth and in the solar system. They also held STEM Fest last fall to celebrate space science in preparation during the time of the total solar eclipse. STEM Fest included a traveling planetarium, moon bounce, lab simulation, rocket launching, and more! The ComiClub also travels off campus to take part in fun activities for their members. The History and Spanish Clubs visited St. Augustine, Fla., as their way to expand learning.

The Academic Quiz team made several out-of-state trips to compete. Students went to Orlando, Fla., Marianna, Fla., and Chicago, Ill. and fared well against larger institutions and represented SGSC in a positive way.

Not all trips were academically oriented. SGSC’s Department of Student Life took students between campuses to athletic events and even traveled to see the minor league baseball team, the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, play a game.

Aside from the adventures and fun trips, students also see a great need in reaching out to others. The SGSC Day of Service kick-started student activities that are focused on serving others. Athletic teams collected shoes and money for flood victims in Texas and volunteered at Special Olympics in Utah during a trip to the national tournament. Students living in the residence halls went to the Hope Center, an afterschool program for disadvantaged youth, and spent time with the children. On one recent trip, they partnered with the students and had a contest to see who could put together a puzzle of the United States first. They also served as their audience for their holiday program they had been practicing. These and other trips such as the ones to volunteer at the local food bank or take part in a community clean-up project of local rivers and streams give them a greater appreciation for what they have and the opportunities they are given as a college student.

Learning can take place inside the classroom or outside the classroom walls. Through these and many more experiences, SGSC faculty and staff are not only providing unique learning experiences for students but helping create memories that will last a lifetime.
The SGSC Hawks softball team finished the season with a 33-18 overall record and a 20-8 record in Georgia Collegiate Athletics Association (GCAA) play. The Hawks were the second seed going into the GCAA Region 17 tournament in Cartersville. They lost their first game of the tournament and went on to win four in a row to claim the championship. Logan Mullis, Tess Robinson and Larran Carter were named First team All-Region. Destiney McRae was named to the second team. Logan Mullis was named GCAA Player of the Year. In addition, the Hawks had 6 players named to the GCAA All-Academic team. They are Logan Mullis, Michaelin Thomas, Jess Kifferly, Kelsey Davis, Abbi Lewis and Tess Robinson.

By virtue of winning the GCAA, the Hawks qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament in St. George, Utah. The Hawks represented themselves well, but fell to the number one ranked team in the nation, Florida Southwestern by a score of 5-1. In the loser's bracket, the Hawks lost to Howard College in a hard fought game with a final score of 8-5.

Coach Jeff Savage said of the team, “I give our players a lot of credit. None of these kids were our coaching staff recruits, yet they embraced our philosophy, and worked together to have one of the most successful seasons in school history. I am very proud and happy for them.”
SGSC Hawks men and women swim teams earn second place in the nation at NJCAA swim meet; Coach CM Jenkins named Women’s National Coach of the Year

The South Georgia State College swim team notched two more national runner-up awards at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) swim meet held in Fort Pierce, Fla. SGSC women’s team earned their third consecutive second place finish in the nation while the men repeated their runner-up spot from 2016. The host school, Indian River, won their 47th consecutive National Championship.

Head Coach CM Jenkins was also named Women’s National Coach of the Year and individually, the team had several top eight finishes and set five new school records. Jessilyn Graham set a new record in the 50 breaststroke with a fourth place finish and a time of 31.41. Men’s breaststroker Andrew Brown also set a new team record in the 200 breast with a third place finish and a time of 2:06.41. Brown also placed second in the 50 and 100 breaststroke events. Jessica Dunton had two second place finishes during the meet. The sophomore bested her old record in the 200 fly with a 2:09.21 time and placed second in the 400 IM. Distance swimmers Brittany Herndon and Daniel Johnson also set new marks for the Hawks. Johnson broke the five year old record in the 1650, a mile long freestyle event with a time of 16:40, earning him third place. Herndon bested her old 1000 freestyle record with a time of 10:51.

All five members of the Hawks distance group, led by assistant Coach Sarah Maley, earned top eight places in the 1650. Along with Johnson’s third place finish, freshman Andrew Wolth finished fourth and fellow freshman Steven Smith had a huge time cut to finish in eighth place. Herndon also finished third in the mile with freshman female Casey Hall right behind her in fourth place.

The Hawks also amassed a huge amount of points in the 200 butterfly event. Along with Jessica Dunton’s second place, freshmen swimmers Lindsey Garrison and Abigail Aldridge placed third and sixth, respectively. SGSC had four men score in the event, Jackson Bloom (6th), Michael Thompson (7th), Trace Austin (9th) and Elijah Harris (11th).

The Hawks men had four second place relay finishes during the meet. Both 200 and 400 medley teams of Ryan Buczkowski, Andrew Brown, Jackson Bloom and Zac Elz earned runner-up spots to Indian River. The 200 free relay team, made up of the same four swimmers, took second again and freshman Orion Bopp joined the group in the 400 free relay. The women had one runner-up relay finish. The 400 medley team of Casey Hall, Jessilyn Graham, Abigail Aldridge and Delaney Smith placed second.
Speakers focus on pride of family and commitment to learning and working hard at SGSC’s 2018 Commencement

The 2018 Commencement exercises were held at South Georgia State College (SGSC) on Friday, May 4. The Douglas Campus ceremony took place on the front lawn of Peterson Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. G. Wayne Clough, the tenth president at Georgia Institute of Technology and the twelfth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, served as the keynote speaker. As a native of Douglas, Clough spoke fondly of his hometown and how it shaped his life. Dr. Clough shared, “Those of you who leave South Georgia for a career will find this does not mean leaving home. You take it with you, because it is part of who you are. I will always treasure growing up in a place where I was encouraged to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning, to enjoy nature and help protect our natural heritage and to appreciate the importance of family. I know that whatever success I have had in my life is owed in large part to what I was given here in Douglas, Georgia.”

He also encouraged graduates as they face adversity and change throughout their life’s journey to “continue to grow, learn and give back to help others as you have been helped”.

Later that evening at 7:00 p.m., the Waycross Campus ceremony took place in the gymnasium. SGSC lecturer of history, Mr. Ed Flowers, provided the keynote address. Flowers has served as a member of the South Georgia State College faculty for twenty-two years, eighteen part-time and four full-time, and will retire at the end of this semester. He has brought great joy and excitement to many athletic events over the years as “The Voice of the Ware County Gators” and SGSC Hawks men’s basketball team, serving as public address announcer for all home games.

Flowers shared several personal stories and key historical events to support his advice that “hard work pays off”.

He went on to say that throughout their lives, the graduates may face tough times and their plan A may not work out, and you may have to give up something to get ahead.

In both ceremonies, SGSC President Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers shared several key academic and athletic accomplishments from the 2018 year. Special recognition and congratulations for the inaugural cohort of ten Bachelor of Science in Management graduates and acknowledgement of dual enrollment graduates from area high schools were given. She also paid tribute to several students, faculty and staff that received significant honors and awards during the year.

A total of 342 students received a degree and were honored for the summer 2017, fall 2017 and spring 2018 terms during the annual commencement ceremonies.

Congratulations to the South Georgia State College class of 2018!
SGSC academics is divided into three distinct schools – the School of Arts and Professional Studies, the School of Nursing, and the School of Sciences. Below are just a few highlights from each school’s work during the 2017-2018 academic year.

**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES | Dr. Ruth Ellen Porter, Dean**

The inaugural cohort of ten Bachelor of Science in Management students graduated in the spring 2018 commencement ceremony on the Douglas Campus.

Mr. Frank Pridemore, associate professor of political science, coordinated and participated in a panel discussion for the SGSC Constitution Day Program, along with Ms. Becky Sims, associate professor of political science, and Dr. Rick Reiman, professor of history.

Dr. Dana Caldemeyer, assistant professor of history, has been selected to participate in the Governor’s Teaching Fellows program for the 2018-2019 academic year. She also attended the John Gardner Institute’s Gateway to Completion in Houston with fellow faculty members. In addition, she attended conferences that have led to publications including an essay “Unfaithful Followers” on non-union strikers that will appear in the anthology Revisiting Southern Labor History (University Press of Florida) August 2018 and a book, Striking It Alone: Laborers, Farmers, and the Non-Union Spirit of the Gilded Age is under revision with the University of Illinois Press. She also attended the Southern Labor Studies Association conference where she organized a panel discussion on late nineteenth century capitalism and labor and presented “Dual Bidding: Late Nineteenth Century Cooperatives and the Non-Union Actions of Good Union Men,” which will be slated for publication in the next two years.

Ms. Becky Sims, associate professor of political science, attended the American Political Science Association Annual Conference in San Francisco last fall.

Mr. Frank Pridemore, associate professor of political science, represented SGSC at the Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science meeting in Savannah, attended the G2C (Gateway to Completion) Conference in Houston, TX., and represented SGSC at the Faculty Leadership Council meeting in Atlanta. He also presented a program entitled, “Campaigns I’ve Known, and Some I Loved” to the Douglas Rotary and Lions Clubs.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING | Dr. Scott Thigpen, Dean**

Ms. Susan Clement, associate professor of nursing, was published in the Journal of Nursing Education and Practice. The submission entitled “Virtual Mentoring in Nursing Education: A Scoping Review of the Literature” was published in the online version in November 2017. She was selected to present her research and results at the Nursing Education Research Conference in Washington D.C. in the spring of 2018. Ms. Clement’s article can be viewed at the following link: http://www.sciedupress.com/journal/index.php/jnep/article/view/12199/7758

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCES | Dr. Charles Johnson, Dean**

Over 400 students attended the Regional Science Fair in February on the Douglas Campus. The fair was led by Dr. Charles Johnson, Dean of the School of Sciences and Dr. Dean Thornton, assistant professor of anatomy and physiology.

The Douglas Campus hosted eight schools during the Middle School Science Olympiad, led by Randy Yonz, assistant professor of physical education.

Over 120 students from area high schools participated in the annual Waycross Campus Mathematics Tournament. The tournament was coordinated by Dr. Lisa Howell, professor of mathematics and Ms. Becky Griffin, associate professor of mathematics.

Over 120 students from Citizens Christian Academy, Ware High School and Southside Christian School participated in a STEM Days on the Douglas and Waycross Campus. Students were led through hands-on science activities by Dr. Badr Abdalla (Physics), Dr. Bryson Dye (Chemistry), Dr. Rosa Guedes (Ecology), Dr. Kimberly Hunt (Genetics), Mr. Bernard Majdi (Chemistry) and Dr. Molly Smith (Biology). STEM Days are funded by a STEM grant through the University System of Georgia.

Mr. Bernard Majdi, associate professor of chemistry and biology, Dr. Rosa Guedes, assistant professor of biology and ecology, Dr. Robert Potter, assistant professor of biology and Dr. Kimberly Hunt, assistant professor of biology and ecology, hosted hands-on science activities at the Boys and Girls Club of Coffee County.

Dr. Margaret Adams, assistant professor of mathematics, gave a presentation entitled “Knowing functions before learning limits: undergraduate students’ unique perceptions of limits and compromised foundational knowledge of functions” at the Mathematical Association Meeting in San Diego, California.

**ACROSS THE COLLEGE**

Dr. Frank Holiwski, associate professor of psychology will host a panel discussion at the Council on Undergraduate Research’s (CUR) Biennial Conference in Arlington, VA. The panel will be populated by Dr. Rosa Guedes, assistant professor of biology and ecology, Dr. Julie Havens, assistant professor of biology, Amy Capps and Natalee Fender, students from Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences program and Allie Morgan, representative of the associate level programs.

The presentation is titled: What Exactly Do You Mean by “Research”? The Challenges of Infusing Research across the Curriculum at a (Mostly) Two-year School.

Dr. Frank Holiwski, associate professor of psychology, Dr. Rosa Guedes, assistant professor of biology and ecology and Dr. Robert Potter, assistant professor of biology collaborated on the spring semester week-long Undergraduate Research Symposium.
YOUR DONATION HELPS open doors and creates success for our students to obtain a college degree.

Over 84% of SGSC students need financial assistance to attend.

By giving, you offer more students a chance at a bright future, and you ensure a more skilled workforce for our region.

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For information about other giving opportunities, please contact:

South Georgia State College Foundation (Douglas Campus) 912.260.4274

The James M. Dye Foundation (Waycross Campus) 912.449.7510
Basketball:
Four members of South Georgia State College’s men’s basketball team received postseason honors recently from the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association (GCAA) during the 2017-2018 season that saw the Hawks make their fourth consecutive appearance in the GCAA semifinals.

Tracy Hector, Jr., a 6’5” redshirt sophomore from Mobile, Ala., was named GCAA Defensive Player of the Year, second team All-GCAA and to the GCAA’s All-Defensive Team. Hector averaged 15 points, 9.3 rebounds and seven assists per game for the Hawks (23-9, 11-5). He finished in the top five in rebounding average, defensive rebounds (154), total rebounds (222), assists (168) and steals (74).

Nate Louis, a 5’11” sophomore from Miami, Fla., was a first team All-GCAA selection. Louis averaged 17.7 points (fourth in the GCAA) and six assists per game. Like Hector, Louis was a top five player in many categories – free throw shooting (81 percent), three-point shooting (42.8 percent), total points (566), total assists (196) and total steals (70).

Jacob Spence, a 6’7” redshirt sophomore from Fernandina Beach, Fla., was named to the GCAA’s All-Defensive Team. Spence averaged eight points and 6.4 rebounds per game. He finished in the top five in offensive rebounds (92) and the top ten in total rebounds (206).

An additional GCAA All-Academic Award was presented to Louis and sophomore Willem Vermylen.

Baseball:
The South Georgia State College Hawks baseball team ended the season with the most wins in the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association (GCAA), putting six players on the All-Conference team, and having both the Player of the Year and the Coach of the Year coming from its ranks.

The Hawks finished in an impressive second place in the GCAA conference tournament. After the tournament, three Hawks earned spots on the All-Conference First Team: outfielder Cole Escher, infielder Colby Owens, and pitcher Zach Mainor. The following Hawks were named Second Team All-Conference: fielders Jacob Giles and Tyler Salomon and pitcher Matt Mixon.

Mainor was also named GCAA Player of the Year. Head coach Jeff Timothy, with a league-best 42 wins, took home Coach of the Year honors, the first of his career.

Making the 2018 GCAA All-Tournament team were Mainor, Escher and Hassan Westbrook.

Softball:
In addition to winning the GCAA championship, several Lady Hawks were selected for the All-Region teams. Logan Mullis was named as the GCAA Most Valuable Player (MVP). In addition, three players were named on the All-Region First Team: Logan Mullis (Infield), Tess Robinson (Outfield) and Laran Carter (Pitcher). Named to the Second Team was Destiney McRae (Outfield).

Several Lady Hawks earned spots on the All-Academic Team for the 2017-2018 season. In order to be eligible, a student athlete must be a sophomore with a minimum of 3 full time terms and a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Logan Mullis, Michaelin Thomas, Jess Kifferly, Kelsey Davis, Abbi Lewis and Tess Robinson each excelled academically in order to be recognized.

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BASEBALL
GARRISON HURD
Kennesaw State

MARK MIXON
University of Miami

MATT MIXON
Flagler College

NATHAN HENDERSON
Flagler College

ZACH MAINOR
Georgia College and State University

HASSAN WESTBROOK
Thomas University

CAMERON JAMES
Piedmont College

KC BROWN
Georgia College and State University

CHRISTIAN HARKEY
Savannah State

BASKETBALL
SHELDON HENDRIX
Thomas University (NAIA)

NATE LOUIS
Charleston Southern University (NCAA D1)

TRACY HECTOR, JR.
FAMU (NCAA D1)

WILLEM VERMYLEN
Johnson & Wales University-Miami (NAIA)

KARLTON SPAULDING
Middle Georgia State University (NAIA)

JACOB SPENCE
 Faulkner University (NAIA)

SOFTBALL
TESS ROBINSON
Georgia Southwestern

ARE YOU READY TO FLY?

SGSC Student Athlete Four-Year Commitments
Congratulations to the following SGSC athletes who have committed to play in their respective sport at the next level! Go Hawks!

SOCCER
CHELSEA GREEN
Johnson and Wales
BASEBALL
Hawks Baseball (42-18, 22-8) finished 2nd in the GCAA during the regular season. The Hawks were 2-2 in the conference tournament making the championship game. This is the 7th straight postseason appearance in Coach Timothy’s 7th season as the head coach (2018 GCAA Coach of the Year). The Hawks were led by Zach Mainor (12-3 record with 108 strikeouts, 2.25 ERA) GCAA Player of the Year and 1st team All-Conference; Cole Escher (.415 avg., 75 runs, 30 stolen bases) 1st team All-Conference; Colby Owens (.352 avg., 7 homeruns, 49 RBI, 12 stolen bases) 1st team All-Conference; Jacob Giles (.324 avg., 44 RBI, 29 stolen bases) 2nd team All-Conference; Tyler Salomon (.352 avg., 37 RBI, 14 stolen bases) 2nd team All-Conference; and Mark Mixon (6-1 record, 92 strikeouts) 2nd team All-Conference.

BASKETBALL
South Georgia State Hawks (23-9, 11-5) ended with the 4th straight 20-plus wins season and only one of two teams to make the GCAA semi-finals four seasons in a row. They finished 2nd in the GCAA and earned a spot in the final NJCAA National Poll (Receiving Votes) as a Top 30 team in the country. They were first in the NJCAA in assists per game by a team (22.8), first in the GCAA and 21st in the NJCAA in 3-pointers made, as well as first in the GCAA and 29th in the NJCAA in 3-Point Percentage, first in the GCAA and 9th in the NJCAA in steals. The Hawks had two players named All-GCAA – Nate Louis (1st team) and Tracy Hector, Jr. (2nd team). Hector was named the GCAA Defensive Player of Year and along with Jacob Spence was named GCAA All-Defensive Team. Hector was also named to the GCAA All-Tournament Team. Six sophomores graduated this spring making 28 of 29 sophomores who have now graduated with an associates in the last four years.

CROSS COUNTRY
SGSC’s Cross Country teams continue to compete in both the men’s and women’s divisions in the GCAA. The fall schedule included meets at Middle Georgia State University, Georgia College and State University, Albany State University, and the Central Georgia Technical College Invitational. SGSC prides itself on helping runners achieve their potential both in the classroom and on the trails.

SOCCER
The women’s soccer team finished fourth in the GCAA for 2017-2018, with two players, Chelsea Green and Mackenzie Macmillan, selected to the all-conference teams. Green has committed to play with the NAIA program of Johnson and Wales in Miami for the remainder of her college career. The 2018-2019 season for women’s soccer is full of potential. Five current players will be returning to join a highly talented freshman class. Currently sixteen incoming players have been signed representing three states, eleven club organizations, and the Caribbean. SGSC will also be renovating Shannon Hall as a permanent field house for the women’s soccer team, including a team lounge, players’ locker room, coaches’ offices, and storage.
Dr. Greg Jacobs (‘90)  
A Heart for Education

There are times when you are convinced your life is headed exactly where it is supposed to go. Then, someone crosses your path and the needle on your compass starts spinning in an entirely new direction. The time Dr. Greg Jacobs (‘90) spent at South Georgia had a great impact on the path he would eventually take and one professor, Mr. Delano Deen, was instrumental in his choice.

Jacobs was a stellar student, earning the right to be a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the designation as an Ivy W. Moorman Scholar, receiving a scholarship. He felt well prepared when he graduated from South Georgia and made the trip north to the University of Georgia, and it was there he changed his career path and used his chemistry degree in the educational field. He decided he wanted to make the kind of impact on young minds that Mr. Deen had made on him.

After returning home with degree in hand, he began his profession in the Brantley County School System, serving in various roles during his years there as a science teacher (chemistry, physics and physical science), basketball coach, assistant high school principal, director of curriculum and school system superintendent. Since 2017, Jacobs has served as the executive director of the Okefenokee RESA (Regional Educational Services Agency), which provides eight local school systems in the region with access to shared services designed to improve the effectiveness of educational programs, services and cost-effective cooperative purchasing opportunities. Okefenokee RESA serves Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce and Ware counties.

While he gives Mr. Deen much credit for his educational choices, he knows the guidance from his parents, Edmond and Susie Jacobs from Brantley County, kept his path straight and his goals in sight. He continues to have motivation from his family in his wife of 25 years, Sherrie, a teacher at Brantley Middle School. He has two sons and one daughter. Ryan has followed in his dad’s footsteps and is a current student on the Waycross Campus of South Georgia State College (SGSSC) pursuing an associate of science in health and human performance. Grant is a senior at Brantley High School and will most likely be a student at SGSSC one day too.

“I had a wonderful experience at South Georgia and if it had offered bachelor degree programs at the time, I would have stayed,” says Dr. Jacobs. “It was far enough from home to feel I was on my own, but close enough I could go home when I wanted. I made great friends, many who have stayed friends for life. I am proud to be an alumnus of South Georgia. I think people will know that when they enter my office. The South Georgia diploma is the first one you see!”

Dr. Jacobs realizes many changes have been made to the campus since his time there. More residence halls have been added, legacy buildings have been renovated and athletic programs have grown. He also knows that with growth comes changes, but he is assured one thing stays the same. South Georgia has and always will provide a quality education. His successes and accomplishments have proven that.

- By Amy Hancock
Mrs. Cindy Sowell ('83)
Giving Back To Help Others Move Forward

Little did Cindy McQuaig Sowell know back in the early 1980’s that attending the former Waycross Junior College (WJC) would have such a great impact on her life and career. A native of Waycross, Sowell began attending WJC while she was still in high school and upon graduation, she became a full-time student. Her love of math in high school led her to take accounting classes at the college from Mr. James Brewton. “He made accounting so easy to understand,” said Sowell. “I knew I loved math and now that I could understand accounting because of him, I decided to pursue it as my career path.” In high school, she met Robby Sowell who also became an accounting student. Once they graduated from WJC, they were married and both attended Valdosta State to complete their BBA degrees in accounting.

After a short time in Macon and Atlanta, they returned to their hometown to establish careers. Her husband is currently the controller at Stewart Distribution and she owns Goodman Tax Service where she provides tax preparation services to individuals, in addition to bookkeeping and payroll services to small businesses. Goodman Tax Service has serviced the Waycross area since 1968 and she is the fourth owner of the company, all of which have been females.

She and her husband are not the only ones in the family to attend college on the Waycross campus. Her sister, Jenny McQuaig Csikai, graduated from WJC, completed her degree at Georgia State University and is now a physical therapist in Jacksonville, Florida. Her brother, Joey McQuaig, also graduated from WJC and went on to graduate from Georgia Southern with a degree in marketing and now works for the U.S. Post Office in Blackshear. Her son, Matthew, also attended when it was known as Waycross College. It was during that time in 2012 that one of his English professors noticed his talent in writing and persuaded him to pursue writing further. He went to Georgia Southern, obtained a degree in journalism and will soon graduate from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with a Masters of Fine Art in Dramatic Writing. Sowell said, “We are so grateful to that professor for identifying his writing skills and encouraging him to continue with writing as a career.” It is important to note that Sowell, her sister, brother and son all received Foundation scholarships while attending the college in Waycross.

This brings us back to the place where Sowell feels she can now give back. She said, “During my time at WJC, I gained life-long friendships that remain strong today. Many of us returned to Waycross to serve in leadership roles in business and in the community.” She feels the college laid a strong educational foundation while helping her to develop good study habits and a strong work ethic that she maintains today.

Upon her return to the community, she was asked to serve on the Foundation board by Dr. James Dye in 1995. Now, twenty-three years later, she is the longest serving Trustee on the board. She has served under all the presidents of the College and has been in the role of treasurer for eight years. With her long history and rich knowledge of the college and the Foundation, she feels she has a solid understanding of the financial aspects and lends her expertise as needed.

She is always willing to share the importance of the college to the community. “One of the biggest advantages to our community is that of access to education,” she explained. “It is small, with professors that know and care for the students. It is affordable, and it is accessible. Since it is only approximately a 30 minute drive to the seven surrounding counties, it is an advantage, especially to the non-traditional student.”

Being on the Board allows her the opportunity to hear how the college and the scholarships given by the Foundation benefit students. “I love hearing the stories of the impact we make. Several years ago, a student returned to tell the Board how the Foundation scholarship had helped her. She went back to college part-time while she was employed as a para-professional at a local school. Without the support of the Foundation, she would not have been able to complete her degree that led her to become a teacher,” she said. “As it turns out, this student, now teacher, eventually was employed at my son’s middle school and developed an online homework program that was a great asset to the students and parents. This is only one of the many success stories I have!”

As she looks forward to the future for the students of her beloved alma mater, she also enjoys reflecting on the past. She fondly remembers Dr. Dye stepping out from behind his desk as president to teach fly-fishing to the students in the spring. When she took the class, the pond was being drained, so they could not “fish” in it. Instead, they practiced their skills in the tall pines trees on campus. She also recalls the graduation was held in the Pit area, a place currently used as a student gathering space in the middle of Building A. Fortunately, the size of the graduating class has increased, and the Pit would no longer hold them all.

Fond memories and an appreciation for the college led her back to a role on the Foundation Trustee Board that would help others in the way she was helped years ago. And for that, she will be forever grateful.

- By Amy Hancock
2018

Mr. Lionell Bennett received his Associate of Science Degree in spring and will be retiring from SGSC this summer.
Ms. Melissa Gifford Williams (SGSC employee) received her Bachelor of Science in Management this spring.

2017

Danielle Sumner graduated with her associate of science in nursing in 2017 and began working at Coffee Regional Medical Center as a registered nurse (RN) on the medical and pediatrics floor. She received the 2017 CRMC DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses®. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation’s mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day. She is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at SGSC.

2014

Caity Barber is the Coordinator of Campus and Development Operations for South Georgia State College’s Waycross Campus.
Bennett Grieco received his master’s degree in accounting from Valdosta State University. He will begin work with Mauldin & Jenkins in Albany, Ga.

2011

Andrei Hall has been named assistant varsity basketball coach at Jeff Davis High School and head coach for Jeff Davis Middle School 8th grade basketball for the 2018-19 season. Before being named to Jeff Davis as part of the coaching staff, he played on the Waycross Campus from 2009-11 and went on to graduate with a bachelor degree from Martin Methodist and a master’s degree from Henderson State College. He spent one year back at his alma mater in Waycross as SGSC assistant coach in the 2015-16 season.

2003

Mr. J.R. Charles has been selected to be the Vice President of Economic Development in Carroll County.

1997

Ms. Lydia Davis received the 2018 Teacher of the Year award for Broxton Mary Hayes Elementary School.

1996

Ms. Andrea Taylor has been selected to be the CEO of the Hazlehurst-Jeff Davis County Chamber of Commerce.

1995

Mr. Shane Shook was promoted to city president at Ameris Bank this past January. Shane and his wife, Brittany, live in Douglas and have two children.

1985

Ms. Sherry Berry received the 2018 Georgia Middle School Principal of the Year.

1959

Mr. William A. “Billy” Crider received the Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award in the category of Colleges at the Regents Scholarship Gala hosted by the USG Foundation on Friday, March 2, 2018, in Atlanta.

Pictured Right: (L-R) Mrs. Ann Crider, Mr. Billy Crider, and Regent James M. Hull (Chair) – Photo credit - Carolyn Richardson, Georgia State University

In Memoriam

Ms. Martha Joyner Walker (’56)
July 30, 2017

Mr. Donald Gardiner (’53)
September 1, 2017

Rev. Virlon Griner (’51)
September 2, 2017

Mr. Sammy Bill “Stumpy” Franklin (’58)
September 9, 2017

Ms. Maxine Kicklighter Davis (’55)
September 20, 2017

Mr. Robert Martin Sweat (’67)
November 19, 2017

Ms. Charlene Haines Fullard (’71)
January 9, 2018

Ms. Linda Jenkins (’00)
February 5, 2018

Ms. Mary Handley Champion (’56)
March 16, 2018

Mr. James Crews (’58)
March 21, 2018

Ms. JoAnne Edgar Hakanson (’46)
March 24, 2018

Coach Joe Davis (’50)
Former SGSC football coach
April 10, 2018

Jack Cecil Douglas (’47)
April 13, 2018

Mr. Lawrence S. Middleton (’01)
May 1, 2018

Mr. James O. Echols (’47)
May 15, 2018
RECENT EVENTS
1950’s Class Reunion
On April 13-14, 2018, the alumni classes of the 1950s met for a “Grand Finale” reunion. The group gathered on Friday evening for a Meet and Greet Reception at the Hampton Inn of Douglas to visit and remember their time on campus. The group had lunch on Saturday in Engram Hall on the Douglas Campus to celebrate one more time together and shared their favorite memories and the joy of their lasting friendships.

Classes of 1969-72 Baseball Team Reunion
The alumni baseball teams of 1969 - 1971 gathered on the Douglas Campus for the first time in October, 2017. They enjoyed a cookout on Friday night, golf at the Blueberry Plantation on Saturday morning and a banquet on Saturday night in Engram Hall. The ladies gathered at J&D Café on Saturday for a Ladies Lunch followed by an afternoon of shopping.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Classes of 1969 - 72 Baseball Team Reunion
October 12 - 13, 2018 in Jekyll Island, Georgia

2018 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

BASEBALL
*COACH TERRY CHILDERS
(1965 - 66/1975 - 78)
MR. STEVE FOUCAULT
(1969)
COACH SCOTT SIMS
(1990 - 2011)
MR. PETER BRAGAN, JR.
(1969 - 70)
BASKETBALL
MR. HOWARD RAY
(1963 - 65)
MR. LARRY GUEST
(1965 - 67)

FOOTBALL
MR. VICTOR SPOONER, JR.
(1949 - 51)
MR. RONNIE KELLEY
(1954 - 56)
FOOTBALL & BASEBALL
MR. KELTON COOK
(1952 - 54)
*deceased

SAVE THE DATE
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE INAUGURATION OF
INGRID THOMPSON-SELLERS, PH.D
AS THE EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF SOUTH GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018
HALF-PAST NINE O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING
AT MCGOUIRK AUDITORIUM IN PETERSON HALL
100 WEST COLLEGE PARK DRIVE
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

For full press release on the Hall of Fame inductees, please visit www.sgsc.edu.
We make staying in touch easy.

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