AN ALL-AMERICAN STORY:
SGSC’s Jovante’ Spivey

SGSC Celebrates Its Class Of 2015
Greetings, alumni and friends of South Georgia State College!

It's my pleasure to once again bring you the newest issue of SPOTLIGHT. This is YOUR magazine, and I hope you enjoy thumbing through these pages as much as we have enjoyed putting them together!

There have been many newsworthy events and accomplishments from the past year that are included in this issue. Quite a few SGSC students have received important recognition for their academic prowess. Recent financial support from friends of SGSC have enabled the College to provide additional student scholarships and to begin plans for a new speaker series that will elevate the College's cultural offerings. Finally, the Hawk Nation has enjoyed much success both in competition and in the classroom.

As always, I welcome your feedback so that SPOTLIGHT can be the best source of what's happening within the SGSC family. Don’t hesitate to give me a call, send me an email, or drop an old-fashioned note in the mail. I’d love to hear from you.

Enjoy the magazine! Go Hawks!

Sincerely,
Taylor Hereford
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taylor.hereford@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.
I look forward to this time each year, because I count it a tremendous privilege to share SGSC’s many significant accomplishments with so many valued partners – our alumni, friends, and supporters.

The University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents recently provided a boost to SGSC’s recruitment efforts by offering in-state tuition to residents of Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina. This action allows SGSC to extend its affordability footprint further across the southeastern United States, and I am grateful for this additional recruitment opportunity.

Our two bachelor degree programs – biological sciences and nursing – continue to grow and attract students who wish to pursue their academic dreams at the bachelor’s level. In fact, over 90 students have matriculated into our four-year nursing program since its launch in August 2012. The tuition rate for our bachelor’s programs is the same as that of our two-year degree pathways, which makes a four-year degree from SGSC that much more affordable!

Our student athletes have garnered much success both on the field of play and in the classroom. SGSC’s men’s and women’s swim teams again earned bids to nationals, men’s basketball captured its first-ever region championship, and two athletes received All-American honors. I have challenged our athletes to succeed not only athletically but academically. I’m pleased to share that the grade point average of our student athletes exceeds that of SGSC’s student body!

Finally, SGSC continues to receive considerable support from those who believe in the College’s mission and wish to invest in the lives of our students and campus community. In fact, you will have the opportunity to meet one such supporter within the pages of this magazine.

SGSC’s story continues to shine, and the future has never looked brighter. Together, we can build upon the accomplishments achieved thus far and help SGSC soar to even greater heights.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Carson, Ph.D.
President
South Georgia State College

SGSC Foundation Hosts 2015 President’s Gala

By: Walda Kight

Thursday, April 16, 2015, was a special night on SGSC’s Douglas Campus as the SGSC Foundation hosted a President’s Gala to showcase key accomplishments this year at the College and to honor the 2015 Alumni of the Year.

Mr. Tom Smith, SGSC Foundation President, kicked off the evening with a welcome and recognition of event sponsors and special guests, which included Mr. Dawson Mathis, former United States Congressman from Georgia and alumnus of the former South Georgia College.

Guests enjoyed jazz music during dinner, which was performed by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Myers and Mr. Jim Knowles. Next, Mr. Joe Sports (’54) introduced keynote speaker, Mr. Kirby Thompson.

A Douglas native, Thompson (’74) is Senior Vice President of Community and Government Affairs for SunTrust Bank, Atlanta Division. He currently serves as a board member for the Georgia Council on Economic Education, Eagle Ranch Foundation, Georgia 4-H Foundation, and the University System of Georgia Foundation.

Following Thompson’s remarks, Ms. Kendall Morgan, a BSN nursing student and Peterson Scholar, shared how her SGSC Foundation Scholarship had helped her focus on her studies and achieve great success.

SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson discussed some important successes from the academic year, including a strong season for SGSC’s athletic teams. In addition, Dr. Carson announced the newly created Eames Speaker Series (see Paying It Forward, page 10) and the completion of the Douglas National Bank – Gene Chambers Memorial Scholarship. Six newly endowed scholarships from alums William A. (Billy) Crider and Frank Hanna, Jr., were also announced. The scholarships honor the Crider and Hanna families and assist students from Coffee County who are majoring in STEM fields and plan to return home to pursue their careers.

The evening culminated with the 2015 Alumni of the Year presentation by Mr. Brian McNeill. The evening culminated with the 2015 Alumni of the Year presentation by Mr. Brian McNeill.

As busy as she is, Wright has always made time to help others. She has been involved in many local and statewide causes over the years, including a term as a trustee for the SGC Foundation (2000-2003). Since 2008, Ms. Wright has endowed three scholarships and made several one-time awards to help honor loved ones and assist academically deserving students in the region.

Mr. Terrell Jacobs, Planning Chair of the Gala, closed the evening by thanking all attendees and silent auction sponsors, especially the Premier Sponsors: ABL Educational Enterprises, Studio 8, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith. The Preferred Sponsors were Allstate Construction and PCC Airfoils.
SGSC Now Offers In-State Tuition For Border States
SGSC is one of eleven University System of Georgia (USG) institutions to be granted approval by the Board of Regents to offer in-state tuition for residents in Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina. Students can take advantage of this offer beginning with the fall 2015 semester and throughout their time at SGSC as long as they continuously meet the eligibility requirement. The Regents’ decision supports the USG’s college completion initiative. SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson called the in-state tuition offer “a wonderful opportunity to allow additional students the chance to take advantage of the high-quality, student-centered atmosphere we offer here at SGSC.”

Davis Hall Interior Renovation Moving Forward
Plans to renovate the interior of Davis Hall on the Douglas Campus are moving forward. According to SGSC officials, an official groundbreaking for the project will occur August 26. The goal of the $2.5 million renovation is to preserve the building’s historical architecture and optimize the delivery of instruction, which will include classrooms and faculty offices as well as an auditorium. Davis Hall was one of the three initial buildings at the creation of the Eleventh District Agricultural and Mechanical School. Later becoming South Georgia College, the institution was a founding member of the Georgia Board of Regents in 1931. The building is named for Charles Wesley Davis, the Eleventh District Agricultural and Mechanical School’s first principal.

Spivey Named Coca-Cola Silver Scholar
SGSC student Kaitlin Spivey of Pearson, Ga., was selected as a 2015 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. Spivey’s selection was based on scores she earned in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition, which received more than 1,700 applications this year. The program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, where Spivey served as chapter president on SGSC’s Douglas Campus. Scholars must be nominated by the college’s designated nominator, demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, and demonstrate significant campus and/or community leadership and service. Spivey is continuing her education at the University of Georgia to pursue a degree in dentistry.

SGSC Students Named To All-Georgia Academic Team
Kaitlin Spivey of Pearson, Ga., and Sylvia Smith of Patterson, Ga., were each named to the All-Georgia Academic Team, a program sponsored by two-year college presidents, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and community college state associations. Spivey served as president of PTK’s Kappa Sigma Chapter in Douglas, and Smith was vice president of the Alpha Rho Omega Chapter in Waycross. Both led their chapters to earn 5-Star Recognitions, the highest level in the PTK chapter development program. Nominations to the All-Georgia Academic Team are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community.

Georgia Society of CPAs-Waycross Chapter Scholarship Established At SGSC
SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson is pleased to announce the endowment of the Georgia Society of CPAs-Waycross Chapter Scholarship to benefit SGSC students wishing to pursue a career in business. Future recipients of the scholarship must also reside in one of the following Georgia counties: Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Jeff Davis, Pierce, Ware or Wayne. They may receive the scholarship based on financial need or academic merit while attending SGSC’s Waycross Campus or Douglas Campus. Pictured front row (L-R): Larry
Taylor of BYRT CPAs and president of the Waycross Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; Debra Yonz of BYRT CPAs and treasurer of the Waycross Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson; and Chip Beal of BYRT CPAs. Back row (L-R): Archie Clough, chief financial officer for Baptist Village Retirement Communities; Adam Tolle of BYRT CPAs; James M. Dye Foundation President Huey Spearman; Delores Gibson, CPA; and James Rivers of BYRT CPAs.

Dr. Ruth Ellen Porter Leading SGSC’s Division of Humanities
Dr. Ruth Ellen Porter, former director of academic services at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, joined SGSC during the 2014-2015 academic year as the new chair of SGSC’s Division of Humanities. Originally from Virginia, Dr. Porter holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master’s Degree in English Writing from Hollins University. Dr. Porter has served as both teaching faculty and administrator with several institutions. She is eager to get back to her roots as a Division Chair for the Humanities, which is how she began her administrative career more than twenty years ago. Dr. Porter and her husband reside near Douglas. They have two adult children and two grandchildren, all of whom live in Virginia.

Freeman, Thornton Join Nursing Faculty
Linda Freeman (left) and Lauren Thornton (right) joined SGSC’s School of Nursing faculty at the start of the spring 2015 semester. A native of Waycross, Ga., Freeman is a former associate professor of nursing at John Tyler Community College in Richmond, Va. Her clinical career spans almost 30 years. Freeman will teach first-year nursing courses that lead to SGSC’s Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. Thornton has worked for the Southeast Health District for the past decade. A native of Blackshear, Ga., she began her career as a public health staff nurse at the Ware County Health Department. She transitioned to the Pierce County Health Department and became the nurse manager, a role she held for seven years. Thornton will teach second-year nursing students in the areas of women’s health and pediatrics.

SGSC, Satilla Riverkeeper Announce Educational Partnership
The Satilla Riverkeeper and South Georgia State College Education and Training Alliance was officially launched during the 2014-2015 academic year. Pictured (L-R) are SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson and Satilla Riverkeeper Executive Director Ashby Nix at the signing ceremony. SGSC science faculty are utilizing the Satilla River as an outdoor classroom as a result of the Alliance, particularly in conjunction with the new Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences. In return, SGSC faculty and their students are helping the Satilla Riverkeeper maintain the river’s viability for years to come. The Alliance is the second partnership SGSC has established with a local educational organization. An educational partnership with the Okefenokee Swamp Park was launched in December 2013.

SGSC Hosts RYLA
Seventy of the best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the annual District 6920 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) June 18-21 on SGSC’s Douglas Campus. Students attended leadership classes, which included the importance of customer service, leadership fundamentals, and the importance and dangers of social media. RYLA is an outreach of Rotary International, and students are selected by their local Rotary Club to participate. SGSC has hosted RYLA on the Douglas Campus for over 20 years.
Jovante’ Spivey’s plans after high school were focused on a potential future in college football. The star quarterback and safety from Savannah (Ga.) High had generated some interest from Appalachian State, Valdosta State, and Methodist University.

“Those schools were looking at me, but the recruiting never really went anywhere,” he said.

Then Spivey received a text message that would ultimately change his life.

“(Former) coach (Tyler) Page from South Georgia State College texted me to say they were looking at me to possibly play basketball,” he said. “While my focus in high school was more on football, I had played basketball when I was young and had always been good at it.”

Spivey made a visit to SGSC, and he accepted an offer two weeks later to play for the Hawks. It would be the only basketball offer Spivey would receive.

Upon his arrival to campus in fall 2013, Spivey said there were discussions of him possibly sitting out the 2013-2014 season as a redshirt. That changed when head coach Cory Baldwin decided to give Spivey some playing time during the first part
of the season.

“We didn’t start Spivey in the first seven games that season,” said Baldwin. “We used him more as a spark off the bench. As the season progressed, we realized we needed him more on the floor than on the bench.”

Spivey was eventually named to the starting five in 2013-2014 – a position he would hold for the rest of his SGSC career.

Baldwin’s decision to move Spivey into a starting role quickly paid off. Spivey finished 2013-2014 averaging 17 points, 4 rebounds, and 3.5 assists per game. He also had 62 steals. Spivey’s points-per-game average and steals placed him among the top 10 players in the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association (GCAA).

He was runner-up for GCAA Freshmen of the Year, named to the GCAA’s All-Region second team, Junior College Newcomer of the Year for the Georgia Basketball Coaches Association (GABCA), and a second team All-State selection.

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Spivey continued to place his mark on SGSC basketball in 2014-2015, averaging 22 points, 3.4 rebounds, and 3.1 assists per game. He shot 79.2 percent from the free throw line and was third in the GCAA in steals (85).

He led the GCAA in scoring, finished 15th in the NJCAA in scoring, and scored 20 or more points in 22 games. In addition, he became the first player at SGSC to eclipse 1,000 points, finishing with 1,251 points in his two-year career.

Spivey was named the GCAA’s Player of the Week on two separate occasions and was the GCAA’s Player of the Year. Other 2014-2015 awards included GCAA first team All-Region, the GCAA All-Tournament team, GABCA Player of the Year (Junior College), first team All-GABCA (Junior College), and the GABCA’s All-Academic team.

It was Spivey’s selection as a first team NJCAA All-American that caught both him and Baldwin by surprise.

“Coach (Baldwin) called me about it,” Spivey said. “I had to pause for just a second, because it was surreal. I thought I might get honorable mention, so being selected to the first team was a shock.”

Baldwin said Spivey surpassed every expectation the coaching staff had for him during his two years as a Hawk.

“We didn’t think Spivey would be a scorer when he came,” said Baldwin. “He definitely proved us wrong by being everything we thought he couldn’t be. That goes to show just how much of a determined and dedicated athlete he is.”

That determination and dedication runs in Spivey’s family. His parents are retired military, both having served in the Army. Spivey’s father, Anthony, served 10 years, while his mother, Nicole, served for 20 years. Nicole’s story is a good example of the Spivey family commitment.

As an Army officer, Nicole Spivey was with her troops in Afghanistan when the truck in which they were riding ran over a mine. The explosion blew off the right side of the truck. The truck door burst open then slammed back into the truck, causing an injury to Nicole’s knee.

Spivey said that even though his mom was injured, she stayed with her unit until help arrived.

“They had to wait in the desert for a long time until someone picked them up,” said Spivey. “She brought her soldiers back, even though she was injured, and was awarded the Purple Heart for what she did.”

In addition to being successful on the court, Spivey also excelled in the classroom. He was named to SGSC’s President’s List fall 2014 and was an honor graduate. He signed a letter of intent this spring to continue his basketball career at Sam Houston State, a Division I member of the NCAA.

As he prepares to move to the next level, Spivey is grateful for the opportunities he has had while at SGSC.

“Some people don’t understand how hard it really is to be successful in basketball,” he said. “When I think about where I started to now being a Juco All-American, it just goes to show anything is possible if you keep working at it.”
SGSC added about 340 new alumni to its numbers during the summer and fall 2014 and spring 2015 semesters. These newly minted alumni were celebrated at the annual commencement ceremonies held on both the Douglas and Waycross Campuses, where they were charged to uphold the principles and academic standards they learned at SGSC.

The Douglas Campus speaker, Georgia Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Chris Clark, encouraged the graduates to work hard, be diligent, and give their all as they go down their unglamorous paths to success. “Do your work... Manners matter. Don’t ever compromise your beliefs and your character because, at the end of the day, that’s all you have.” Clark gave words of wisdom from his eight-year-old son: “It’s good to be part of a team; it’s a lot easier to beat all those other guys on the other side,” and “Whenever you get fired, you just look at them and say ‘live long and prosper,’ because you never know if you might need to go crawling back to them for a job one day.” Clark also gave three points of advice for the new graduates in job interviews: “When you go for your interviews, shake hands, leave your cell phone in your car, and don’t smack your gum.” Mr. Clark closed his keynote by telling the graduates that whatever they do, to give it all they’ve got, and then give it just a little bit more.

US Congressman Earl L. “Buddy” Carter was in attendance at the Waycross Campus ceremony and gave a word of encouragement to the class of 2015: “You’ll have ups and downs in your life, many things will come into your life, many things will leave, but your education will always be with you... You represent the brightest of the brightest, and we are looking forward with great anticipation to the wonderful things that you will do throughout your career.”

The Waycross Campus keynote speaker was State Senator Tyler Harper, who offered words of advice to young people entering the workforce. He noted that the graduates have limitless possibilities to improve the world they live in, thanks in part to the great education they received at SGSC. He told them that failure is a natural part of life; they have probably experienced both failure and success and will continue to do so. But the failures, Harper said, are what make a person really appreciate the great victory of success. “It’s how you respond to the setbacks in life that determines your future success... All of you have faced obstacles in your journey in order to get here, but the exciting part is that each of you has overcome those obstacles to hold those seats in which you sit tonight.” Senator Harper encouraged the graduates to take the lessons learned at SGSC and use them for their benefit by making their own way in the world and not letting anyone tell them that they can’t. He shared that he had many doubters when he decided to run for the State Senate at age 25, but he worked hard and pushed through, pursued his dream, and won the election. “It was my education, my foundation, and my perseverance that allowed me to overcome at the end of the day, and I want to encourage each of you to never let anyone tell you that you’re too young to do anything... There is truly no limit to your potential if you apply yourself.”

All members of the graduating class of SGSC have worked hard to earn this achievement, and their dedication and determination have made it possible.

Congratulations to the SGSC class of 2015! Go Hawks!

For photos of both ceremonies, please find SGSC on Facebook at facebook.com/southgeorgiastatecollege.
Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Frank Holiwski has been at SGSC for almost 10 years and has loved every minute of it. Holiwski happened upon SGSC by chance. He was in Philadelphia, Pa., and his internship was almost over when he began searching for jobs in higher education. Holiwski submitted thirteen applications all over the country, which secured him nine interviews. First on the list was the former South Georgia College. After he sat down with Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Rick Reiman, Holiwski promptly called and canceled the other eight interviews; he knew that SGSC and Douglas were where he would make his home.

During his tenure at SGSC, Holiwski has taught psychology, served as president of the Faculty Assembly, been an assistant coach and then sole faculty advisor of the Quiz Bowl Team, and has served on the President’s Cabinet. He currently is the advisor for the Psych Club and the Psychology Honors Society Psi Beta.

Holiwski has always been interested in psychology, reading *Psychology Today* and psychology books since the sixth grade. Holiwski earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with a minor in African/African American Studies from East Tennessee State University and a Master of Arts Degree in Clinical-Community Psychology from DePaul University in Chicago. Holiwski remained at DePaul to also earn his Ph.D. in clinical-community psychology. He co-taught at DePaul for 10 years and has published many articles and presentations on research.

Holiwski’s passion for research led to his being published in the Council on Undergraduate Research and also led to his proposal that undergraduate research become a primary form of pedagogy at SGSC. In addition, Holiwski’s passion for teaching resulted in his being awarded the NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award in 2012.

As the advisor for the Quiz Bowl Team, Holiwski has instilled a love of learning in his students, which allowed the team to have its best year in 2014-2015. The team made it to the National Competition, finishing with a record of five wins and four losses and placing 12th out of the 24 teams invited. One SGSC team member finished fifth in the individual competition and plans to come back and help mentor new team members in the fall.

Holiwski says that making the move to Douglas and SGSC is one of the best things he has done, other than meeting his wife, Candace, which he notes wouldn’t have happened if he hadn’t moved here. Another event Holiwski recalls as one of his most memorable SGSC moments came soon after he started teaching. It was the first time the Quiz Bowl Team made it to the national competition. Holiwski explained, “I was an assistant coach to Dr. Mike Butler, and we were in Minneapolis, Minn., at nationals. Our team was up against a team of freshmen and sophomores from MIT, and we answered the first question correctly. For a brief moment in time – I wish that I could have paused time right then – South Georgia College held a 10-0 lead over MIT. That was a proud moment, even if it didn’t last very long.”

Every semester, the quality and caliber of the Quiz Bowl Team players go up. Holiwski is continually impressed with their talents. He says that the team is stellar, especially for what others would deem as a small state college. Holiwski has always had good interactions with all of his students, whether on the Quiz Bowl Team or in the classroom. Those positive interactions make him enjoy his job and his life, and he wouldn’t have it any other way.

In his spare time, Holiwski enjoys spending time with his wife, reading Thomas Hardy or Sinclair Lewis, and running marathons. Douglas and SGSC are home for him. Holiwski recalled, “I was out taking a walk the other day, and I was happily thinking about how content I would be to live the rest of my life here. That thought just felt like the right thing.”
PAYING IT FORWARD

Charles Eames Has Quietly Made A Resounding Impact On SGSC

By: Taylor Hereford
Retired local librarian Charles B. Eames, Jr., enjoys helping others while expecting nothing in return. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in Eames’ recent financial support of SGSC. He has established a second scholarship for students on SGSC’s Waycross Campus as well as provided funding for the creation of the Eames Speaker Series at SGSC.

“Mr. Eames is a quiet, yet dedicated, public servant,” said SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson. “He is always looking for ways to positively impact the lives of others while expecting nothing in return.”

The Eames Scholarship, administered by the James M. Dye Foundation, will help students who demonstrate financial need to attend college.

“My family has always been committed to serving communities. I wanted to help those less fortunate than I with their education,” said Eames.

Eames first established an endowment through the Dye Foundation, in 2008, for students desiring to major in library science, information studies, or related fields. In addition, he started a travel fund to assist students with their commutes to and from the Waycross Campus. The travel fund was extended to include the Douglas Campus in August 2014.

During a recent visit to SGSC, Eames agreed to financially support the creation of The Eames Speaker Series, which is now in development and is projected to launch officially during the 2015-2016 academic year.

“The Series has the potential to bring notable authors or experts in key fields to SGSC to speak to students and the community,” said Walda Kight, vice president for external affairs. “This will help SGSC fulfill an important role in providing educational and cultural activities for the region.”

Dr. Carson also expressed her thankfulness for Eames’ desire to help SGSC form a stronger bond with the community.

“I am so grateful to Mr. Eames for his passion for lifelong learning and for helping others,” said Dr. Carson. “The Eames Speaker Series will be very beneficial to our students and the community. SGSC is lucky to have Mr. Eames as a friend and supporter.”

Eames was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Charles B. Eames, Sr., and Harriet Allyn Eames, who was herself a librarian. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Syracuse University in 1966. Following four years of service in the United States Navy as a radioman third class, Eames earned his Master’s Degree in Library Science in 1971 from SUNY at Albany Graduate School in Albany, N.Y.

His career in library science has spanned the globe, with positions in Troy, N.Y.; Hamilton, New Zealand; and Willard, Ohio. In 1982, Eames accepted the director’s position for the Jefferson County Library in Louisville, Ga., a position he held for 5 ½ years.

In March 1988, Eames was named reference librarian for the Okefenokee Regional Library System (ORLS) in Waycross. Over the next 15 years with the ORLS, until his retirement in 2003, Eames was promoted to children’s librarian, named interim director, and eventually became full-time director.

Since he is no longer employed full-time, Eames enjoys volunteering at the Waycross-Ware County Public Library shelving books. He also reads to pre-k students at DAFFODIL in Waycross every academic year.

In addition, Eames works with the Auxiliary at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross and visits nursing homes. He is a former member of the James M. Dye Foundation’s Board of Trustees and an active member of First Christian Church of Waycross, where he has served as an elder and member of the choir.
2014-2015 SGSC ATHLETICS AWARDS & HONORS

Congratulations to SGSC’s teams and student athletes for an incredible 2014-2015 season, and congratulations to those student athletes who have committed to play in their respective sport at the four-year level!

GO HAWKS!

BASEBALL
GCAA Region XVII Tournament Runner-Up
GCAA Player of the Year
BROOKS CALVO

1st Team All-Region
BROOKS CALVO
STEVE MCLEOD

2nd Team All-Region
TYLER AMMERMAN
PHILIP HART
CAYDEN HATCHER

All-Tournament Team
TYLER AMMERMAN
BROOKS CALVO
STEVE MCLEOD

BASKETBALL
GCAA Region XVII Regular Season Champions
GCAA Region XVII Tournament Runner-Up

1st Team All-NJCAA
JOVANTE’ SPIVEY

GCAA Coach of the Year
CORY BALDWIN

GCAA Player of the Year
JOVANTE’ SPIVEY

1st Team All-GABCA
CODY HELGELAND
JOVANTE’ SPIVEY

2nd Team All-GABCA
DEMON TREZ AUST IN

GABCA All-Academic Team (3.0 GPA or better - Fall 2015)
DEMON TREZ AUST IN
COLIN COTTER
CODY HELGELAND
DANIEL PEACE
JOVANTE’ SPIVEY
JAMISON WILLIAMS

CROSS COUNTRY
Men’s Team – GCAA Region XVII Runner-Up
Women’s Team – 4th place, GCAA

All-Region
ROBERT BLED SOE
NATHAN DUKES
MADISON SMITH
WILL MILLER

ARE YOU READY TO FLY?
**SOCCER**
GCAA Region XVII Tournament Runner-Up

GCAA Player of the Year
ABBY CUNEO

1st Team All-Region
JETENA BODDEN
ABBY CUNEO
SHANELLE FREDRICK

2nd Team All-Region
AMANDA NELSON
JORDAN BERNARD

All-Region Honorable Mention
BRIANNA HICKMAN
LAURA PARSLEY
MOMO ROBERTS

All-Tournament Team
ALEX HORN
SARAH HULETT
LAURA PARSLEY

**SOFTBALL**
6th place, GCAA

2nd Team All-Region
CEE JAY HAM

**SWIMMING**

*Women’s Team* – GCAA Region XVII Champions; 4th place, National Meet

*Men’s Team* – GCAA Region XVII Runner-Up; 5th place, National Meet

Conference Meet Co-MVPs
MEGAN HARDING
CAROLYN IVES

Individual Region Champions
LEANNE BAGAOISAN
BONNIE BROWN
RYAN DAVIS
MEGAN HARDING
CAROLYN IVES
STEPHEN LEWIS
AUSTIN MCCOLLOUGH
JORDAN YARBROUGH

**STUDENT ATHLETE FOUR-YEAR COMMITMENTS**

**Baseball**
TYLER AMMERMAN, University of South Carolina-Aiken
BRYCE BUSTER, University of South Carolina-Aiken
BROOKS CALVO, University of South Carolina-Aiken
BLAKE CHANEY, Middle Georgia State University

**Basketball**
DEMONTEZ AUSTIN, Jacksonville University
COLIN COTTER, Valdosta State University
CODY HELGELAND, Jacksonville University
DANIEL PEACE, Troy University
JEVAUGHN SANCHEZ, Clark State University
JOVANTE’ SPIVEY, Sam Houston State University
JAMISON WILLIAMS, Thomas University

**Soccer**
BRIANNA HICKMAN, Brewton-Parker College

**Softball**
CEE JAY HAM, College of Coastal Georgia

**NJCAA ACADEMIC ATHLETE AWARDS**

*Superior Achievement (3.80 – 3.99 GPA)*
ROBERT BLEDSOE, Cross Country
CHRISTINA ODOM, Soccer

*Exemplary Achievement (3.60 - 3.79 GPA)*
CODY HELGELAND, Basketball
SARAH HULETT, Soccer
DANIEL PEACE, Basketball
REBECCA WASHNEY, Soccer
KERI WILLIAMS, Softball

ANDRE GWYN, University of South Carolina-Beaufort
LAKE HART, Columbus State University
STEVE MCLEOD, Brewton-Parker College
ARRON MOORE, Georgia College & State University
CHASE MORRIS, Brewton-Parker College
JOE PARETE, Brewton-Parker College
LARRY SILMON, Thomas University
JOSH SMITH, LaGrange College
BROOKS TIMMONS, Thomas University
CHARLES WILSON, Savannah State University
The SGSC Hawks baseball players’ hard work all season earned them not only a berth in the GCAA Conference Tournament, where they finished second in the state, but also a slot in the district tournament for the first time in three years.

The East Central District Championship Tournament was held at Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tenn., May 14-16, which hosted the top two teams from Tennessee—Walters State and Chattanooga State Community College—and the top two teams from Georgia—Darton State and SGSC (36-24, 19-13).

SGSC’s first game at the district tournament was against Tennessee’s number one team, Walters State. The Hawks held strong for the first two innings and kept the score tied at 0-0. In the third inning, the Walters State Senators pulled ahead and stayed there, defeating SGSC 11-1.

Game 2 for the Hawks was against Georgia’s number one team, Darton State College. The Hawks overcame a fast start by Darton to defeat the Cavaliers 9-8 to remain in the hunt for a tournament title.

Game 3 for SGSC was against Tennessee’s number two team, Chattanooga. Chattanooga jumped out to an early 9-0 lead and never looked back. Chattanooga defeated SGSC 12-1, ending the Hawks’ season.

SGSC is very proud of the baseball players’ hard work, dedication, and accomplishments during the 2014-2015 season, and head coach Jeff Timothy is very pleased with the way the season turned out.

“It was a magnificent run. What a journey! Qualifying for the East Central District Championship Tournament is an honor in itself,” said Timothy. “I would like to thank the players, coaching staff, SGSC, and our fans and family as they have shown tremendous support during this season. I hope to continue this success for future seasons to come.”

For more information on Hawks baseball, visit sgsc.edu/athletics.

The SGSC Hawks Swim Team competed at the NJCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Buffalo, N.Y., March 4-7, and once again earned national rankings. The women’s team finished fourth overall with 923.5 points, only 63.5 points behind the third place team but 407.5 points ahead of fifth. The men’s team finished fifth with 798 points overall, only 62 points behind the fourth place team and 225 points ahead of sixth.

The teams’ fourth and fifth place finishes came after last year’s teams each placed third. The 2015 rankings are still impressive – SGSC had no divers to earn points, but both teams earned a considerable number of points in other events, with many swimmers placing second and third individually.

The berth in the national meet came as a result of an impressive performance by both SGSC teams in the GCAA Swimming and Diving Championship. The women’s team captured the GCAA title, defeating Darton State College 186-105. The men’s team finished second behind Darton with a final score of 172-115.

Sophomore Megan Harding and freshman Carolyn Ives were named co-MVPs of the conference meet. SGSC swimmers who won individual region titles included Leeanne Bagaoisan, Bonnie Brown, Ryan Davis, Harding, Ives, Stephen Lewis, Austin Vines, and Jordan Yarbrough.

“The Hawks have worked hard this year, and I’m proud of their accomplishments,” said head coach C.M. Jenkins, who was named GCAA Women’s Swimming Coach of the Year. “Their diligence in practicing has paid off as the Hawks are once again among the top teams in the nation. They deserve recognition for their persistence. Our swimmers had perhaps the best performance SGSC has ever had at nationals, cutting times on 78 out of their 81 events. We also set seven new school records.

“I’m very proud of our team for their performance in Buffalo,” Jenkins continued. “We’re graduating a few sophomores this year, and I look forward to learning what they’ll accomplish at the four-year level. I’m also excited to see what our current freshmen will accomplish for SGSC as we work toward next year.”

For a complete list of SGSC’s swimmers’ performances as well as photos from the meet, visit sgsc.edu/athletics.
BASKETBALL
Hawks Basketball (27-6, 14-4 GCAA) clinched its first-ever GCAA regular season championship and the top seed in the GCAA Conference Tournament. The Hawks fell to Georgia Highlands in the championship game, 81-70. Head coach Cory Baldwin was named Coach of the Year by the GCAA. Jovante’ Spivey received numerous awards, including first team NJCAA All-American. Other players to receive GCAA honors included Demontrez Austin, Cody Helgeland, and Daniel Peace.

CROSS COUNTRY
Hawks Cross Country had another successful season in 2014. The men’s team finished second at the GCAA Championship while the women’s team finished fourth. Robert Bledsoe earned first team All-GCAA honors while Nathan Dukes and William Miller were second team All-GCAA selections. On the women’s side, Madison Smith was named second team All-GCAA. Head coach Corey Pye and the Cross Country Hawks begin the 2015 season this fall.

SOCCER
Hawks Soccer (10-5-1, 8-3-1 GCAA) clinched the No. 2 seed in the GCAA Conference Tournament and made it to the championship game before losing to Darton State College 4-2. Abby Cuneo was named Most Valuable Player for the GCAA, selected first team All-GCAA, and was an NJCAA All-American honorable mention selection. Other players to receive GCAA honors included Jordan Bernard, Jetena Bodden, Shanelle Frederick, Brianna Hickman, Alex Horne, Sarah Hulett, Amanda Nelson, Laura Parsley, and Momo Roberts.

SOFTBALL
Hawks Softball (20-24, 10-8 GCAA) clinched the No. 5 seed in the GCAA Conference Tournament with a team that included six freshmen starters. Freshmen pitchers Kimberly Gentry, Samantha Hays, and Whitney Oliver posted a combined 2.42 ERA over 104 innings in conference play. Sophomore Cee Jay Ham finished with a .389 conference batting average and a .985 conference fielding percentage. Ham was a second team All-GCAA selection.
Spotlight: John Deems
Successful Entrepreneur, Supportive Mentor
By: Amy Hancock

When John Deems stepped onto Crider Field at the former South Georgia College his freshman year, he knew he had made the right decision. As with many young high school athletes, he had been faced with the choice of where to begin his college career. Several opportunities were in front of him, but with the encouragement of his parents, Johnny and Michelle Deems, and the chance to play baseball for coaches Scott Sims and Chris Case, Deems selected South Georgia College.

Deems graduated from Coffee High School in 1999 and began at South Georgia in the fall. While at South Georgia, he collected several accolades: he was named Player of the Week and earned spots on the All-Region team (twice), the All-State team, the All-Tournament team, and was part of the Southeastern All-Star Showcase.

Even though baseball was Deems’ first love, he was also dedicated to being a student. “Being a student athlete is tough. You have to juggle practice and games while attending class and completing your assignments. Knowing the struggle gives me a greater respect for the players now,” Deems says. “Fortunately, there was and still is a strong support system from the coaches and the faculty and staff at the College to help athletes manage. They want to see athletes achieve and accomplish their athletic and educational goals. I believe their guidance and support and the structure from baseball is what helped me with my focus and kept me in college.”

After his time at South Georgia, Deems played baseball at the former Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) in Marietta, Ga. He then came back closer to home to work on his business degree at Valdosta State University, which laid the groundwork for his next ventures in life. The year 2007 proved to be an important time for Deems, both professionally and personally. In April, Deems and his oldest brother, Jason, bought Johnny’s Pizza in Norcross, Ga. In May, he married Brooke, his high school sweetheart. The brothers bought a second restaurant in Sandy Springs, which was later sold. He
and Brooke lived in the Atlanta area until soon after the birth of their son, Aulton Cole. Wanting to be closer to family in Douglas, Deems left the Norcross business in the capable hands of his brother and returned home to open his own Johnny's Pizza on North Madison Avenue.

The success of Deems' business has been mindboggling and also humbling. People from Douglas have supported the business, and it continues to grow. The couple works together in the business and finds it to be a huge blessing to their family. Having the opportunity to be a part of the community that gives back is important to them. Working in the business also gives Deems the flexibility to give back to the community in other ways as well.

During his time in the Atlanta area, Deems helped with the baseball program at Etowah High School. While he loved playing during his high school and college days, coaching and mentoring became that next level of involvement for him, and he enjoyed every minute of it. Once he moved back to Douglas, baseball was again on his mind. He called on Jeff Timothy, head coach of the SGSC baseball team, whom he had met while they were both at SPSU. Deems asked if he could become involved with the program. Timothy gladly accepted Deems' offer, and now life seems to have come full circle for Deems. He is on the same field where he once played, only with a new set of players. He joins them at practice, travels to games with them, and even makes the long trips to tournaments in postseason play.

Timothy thinks of Deems as something of a Good Samaritan. "He never fails to see the needs the team has without making a way for the needs to be met," says Timothy. "When a player is struggling with a certain play or skill, Deems steps in to give one-on-one time. When the team is making a road trip, he provides a meal for them. When it was time to approach community businesses about new fence signs, he played a key role in the fundraising effort."

Deems' support through mentoring the team reaches far beyond just a few plays on the field. Recently, he spent time working with the middle infielders on skills. The shortstop has shown so much improvement that he is now considered one of the better players on the team and has recently received a scholarship to play baseball at a four-year college. Timothy says, "When you have someone like Deems that will come back to the school where he once played and give so much of himself, it can only be a win-win situation. He has a positive, fun attitude, and that carries over as he nurtures and mentors the players. I hope he realizes what a critical role he plays in the development of the team."

Brandon Ector currently plays second base for SGSC. He credits Deems as one of the reasons he has enjoyed playing baseball at SGSC. "Coach Johnny has taught me a lot about my position on the team. I feel like I'm a better player because of the way he has helped me," Ector says. "As a local business owner that gives back to the College, he has become a role model for us both on and off the field. We think of him as a good person to look up to and just an overall good person."

Another SGSC player, Kristopher Kirkland, agrees with Ector. “We look at Coach Johnny as one that has been there, done that, and got the t-shirt. He knows the ropes, and he shares that knowledge,” Kirkland says. “He has a passion for the game, and he encourages us to speak up when we need help with a certain skill. Besides being a coach, he is also a friend to us as well. He always tells us we need to be disciplined to be good when playing but not to lose the fact that it needs to be fun for us, too.”

Deems says, "I hope to make a positive impact on these college players. I had people supporting me and being involved when I was a student at South Georgia. I want to have the chance to give these players what was given to me, which was support, encouragement, and time."

Deems is doing just that. He hopes that by giving back now, it will encourage players and other former students of South Georgia to do the same.
Class Notes

1955
Congratulations to Joe Sports of Conyers who married Ronda (Davis) of Douglas on December 16, 2014.

1976
Larry Ramsey has acquired his broker’s license and owns Larry Ramsey Realty, LLC in Grovetown, Ga.

1996
Greg Gay is the assistant principal at Blackshear Elementary School in Blackshear, Ga., and has been the head baseball coach at Pierce County High School for 11 seasons.

1997
Adam Smith is a commercial lender for First National Bank of Coffee County. He was a 2014 member of Leadership Georgia, a statewide leadership program sponsored by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

2001
Mary Myers was a recipient of the 2015 DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses at Coffee Regional Medical Center.

2005
Jessica Jowers was sworn in to the Florida Bar on June 5, 2014.

2005
Dani Sutliff is the Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research for South Georgia State College.

2011
Alexis McLoon Leggett married Ryan Leggett April 26, 2014, and received her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from South University in June 2014. She is the pharmacy manager for the Walmart Supercenter in Vidalia, Ga.

2012
Denise Hayes was a recipient of the 2015 DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses at Coffee Regional Medical Center.

2013
Erica Roberson was accepted into the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

2014
Lauren Adams was a recipient of the 2015 DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses at Coffee Regional Medical Center.

SGSC Alumna Earns Prestigious Award
By: Anna Braswell

Sarah E. Braswell (‘07), an alumna of the former South Georgia College, has been named the Georgia Entomological Society’s Masters Student Researcher of the Year, an honor awarded to only one masters student in the state of Georgia for his/her outstanding work in the field of entomology. Braswell won for her research studying new, more effective methods of treating head lice.

Braswell’s award-winning research occurred while pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Molecular Biology at Georgia Southern University (GSU). Under the guidance of GSU professor Dr. Marina Erimeeva, it was discovered that head lice depend on a certain bacteria in their guts to provide them with the nutrients, specifically B vitamins, they need to survive. By studying the gut bacteria, Braswell and Dr. Erimeeva hoped to find a new, more effective way of treating head lice by targeting the bacteria. Their theory was that the lice could be treated with an antibiotic. The antibiotic would enter the bloodstream of the affected person, which would be digested by the lice. This would expose the gut bacteria to the antibiotic and kill it, which would leave the lice to starve to death due to lack of adequate nutrition.

In addition to winning the award and a scholarship from the Entomological Society, Braswell presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Entomological Society at Jekyll Island in April, where she was recognized for her achievements in her research. Braswell won third place in oral presentations at the event, and she and her lab partner, Dani Capps, also entered a photo of their research into the Insect Photo Salon competition, where they won both the Popular Vote and Editor’s Choice.

Braswell, a 2005 graduate of Coffee High School, received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with honors from the former Macon State College. She is projected to receive her master’s degree from Georgia Southern this summer, and her future plans are currently undecided.

Alumni Reunions

Classes of the 1950s Reunion – April 17-18, 2015 The alumni classes of the 1950s enjoyed a great time April 17 at a “meet & greet” held at the Hampton Inn of Douglas. The group gathered again April 18 for lunch in Engram Hall on SGSC’s Douglas Campus and enjoyed a wonderful time of memories and fellowship.

Coach Bobby Bowden Alumni Reunion – June 5 & 6, 2015 Former SGC football players along with Coach Bobby Bowden gathered for their annual weekend filled with fun, golf, food, and fellowship. Events included a round of golf at Beaver Creek Golf and Country Club, a cookout in the Dinner Hall, and a banquet in Engram Hall. Coach Terry Bowden, who was born in Douglas, served as the banquet’s keynote speaker and shared some humorous stories about growing up as a Bowden as well as recruiting against his father.
Ralph Carl Moor (1912-2015)

Mr. Ralph Carl Moor of Atlanta, Ga., died of natural causes April 12, 2015 at the age of 102. Moor served as Academic Dean of Men at the former South Georgia College from 1948-1951.

SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson reflected on knowing Mr. Moor. “He always spoke fondly of his time at our College. Our students, our College, and our State have benefited greatly from his generosity. He was a dear man and will be greatly missed. Above all, I feel very fortunate that my husband and I were able to call him a friend.”

Moor was born in a country farmhouse on Dec. 18, 1912, in the Waltertown community of Georgia, just a few miles from Waycross. The family settled there to engage in the “Waltertown Experiment” of growing peaches in the South Georgia area more noted for growing pine trees. During his formative years, Moor grew up picking peaches in the field and driving the wagon carrying the peaches to market.

Moor is preceded in death by his father, Arthur Fisk Moor; his mother, Eva Frey Moor; two sisters – Elizabeth Tomlinson and Grace Mertice Moor; and a brother, Edward Arthur Moor. He is also preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth Smith, with whom he had two sons; his second wife, Nadine Penney Moor; and his third wife, Margaret Poer Moor.

Moor is survived by his sons Dr. Ralph Carl Moor, Jr. (wife Louise) of Boca Raton, Fla., and Larry S. Moor (wife Julia) of Atlanta, Ga. He is also survived by grandson Wayne Tift Moor of Dallas, Texas; granddaughter Tamara Sanders Moor of Atlanta, Ga.; grandson Michael Grant Moor of Kennesaw Ga.; and great-granddaughter Kelsey Jordan Moor of Dallas, Texas. Also surviving are niece Deltah Stith of Marietta, Ga.; and nephew Edward Moor of Newnan, Ga.

Moor was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Adjutant General’s Corp of the U.S. Army prior to the outbreak of World War II and served for several years in the War Department Headquarters in Washington, D.C. When General Douglas McArthur returned to the Philippine Islands as a major, Moor volunteered to serve on McArthur’s staff and worked to help plan for the anticipated invasion of the Japanese homeland. Moor was scheduled to be on the third wave of the invasion force. Fortunately, the war ended before the invasion could be accomplished.

After the war, Moor continued to serve his country and commanded a unit in the Georgia National Guard, rising to the rank of brigadier general upon his retirement. Over his distinguished career, Moor served in several capacities in both the government of the State of Georgia and United States Civil Service. He also served on the Washington, D.C. staff for several of Georgia’s Senators.

While his first job with the State of Georgia was working with the Georgia Board of Regents as an assistant to Dr. Steadman Vincent Sanford (of Sanford Stadium fame), Moor also served as commissioner for the Georgia State Merit System. He spearheaded the development of procedures that insured that the State employed the best and most highly talented and qualified employees.

Moor received his undergraduate degree from Georgia State University in 1937 and his master’s degree from George Washington University in 1947.

To make things more special, Mr. Moor’s son, Larry, and daughter-in-law Julia, as well as grandson, Michael, are all SGC alumni.

As if a life of public service wasn’t enough, Moor was also known as a philanthropist. He was a generous supporter of SGSC and made several significant contributions to support scholarships and students at the institution.
Office of External Affairs
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