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WAYCROSS, GA SOUTH GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE DOUGLAS, GA

NEWS IN THE NEST

"Boots on the ground & wings in the sky."

Who *is* Tally?: Mystery Behind the Mask



Starting Fall 2026 semester, SGSC's mascot, Tally, joined Student Government on our mission for revitalization! Throughout the month of September, SGA hosted several Tally-centered events on campus. First, Tally popped by Powell for one of the "Pop by Powell" events! Students also rushed around campus, trying to get a full bingo board with "Tally Scavenger Hunt Bingo!" Students had to decipher clues, locate the pictures of Tally, and take a selfie with him in order to get Bingo. Some students even found *all* of the clues, and got a jumbo prize!

Student photos are featured on the SGA Instagram (@sgahawks). Check them out and follow us! In the month of October, Tally will also be starring in the "Tally Takedown," where students will try to defeat Tally at various party games and win a prize for doing so. But be warned, he is currently undefeated! It's also possible Tally will make an unexpected visit during a Haunted Powell event! Be on the lookout! Behind the mask, Tally is a student that loves being our mascot! Soon, SGA will want to hear your guesses...who *is* Tally?

Sponsored by SGA

Interested in SGA or have news you want to see in the next release?
Email us at *sga@sgsc.edu*

Keep up with SGA on Instagram at *@sgahawks*

STUDENT SHOUTOUT



Iyahna Akbar

Iyahna is a Senior in the Pre-Professional Biology Track, and she is going to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. She is a mother of 2, with a 3rd on the way, and she is very active on campus! She is President of the Book Chat Club, and is involved in a little bit of everything!

MORE ON PG. 2 ...

SGSC SPOTLIGHT



Guess the Staff Member!

This staff member works in Student Success and her favorite band is the Dexys Midnight Runner! Could you figure out who it might be?

MORE ON PG. 3 ...

Student Shout-out!

SGA sat down with Iyahna Akbar to ask her some simple questions about her time here at SGSC. We chose to speak with Iyahna for this volume of *News in the Nest* because of her role as the President of the Book Chat Club, and her meaningful involvment on the Waycross campus. Iyahna is always willing to lend a hand, and she loves her kids more than anything in the world. Check out the interview questions and her responses below!

Why did you choose SGSC?

"It was close to home! I was going to FSCJ in Jacksonville, and I needed to continue my education somewhere. I toured and spoke to some people, and I had a good feeling about the environment. I liked the vibe and knew I could see myself going to SGSC and being successful!"



What's your favorite way to relax after a hard day?

"Just to hang out with my kids, get snuggles from them, and put on a nice Disney show or game. I have a son who is 6, and a daughter that is 2. My favorite thing to do is spend time with them. We like watching Halloween Town or Bubble Guppies most of the time."

What is your favorite thing to do on campus?

"I really like going to the STEM Center in Waycross, and that is where I spend most of my days. Last semester, I was the student that logged the most hours because I am always in there! Great people are in there. Talk to them, get help from them; they are just really nice people and I love being there."



What is the hardest thing about college? How do you overcome that challenge?

"I would definitely say balancing college life with outside life, and it just gets harder when you become more active in different things. How do I get through it? Well, I have a goal in mind and I know I need to reach that goal. I go home and I look at my babies' faces and my son tells me that he's proud of me, and knowing that I'm doing it for them helps keep me going every day."

What is one thing you think SGSC could improve upon?

"I think we do a really good job with most things, in general. One thing that is a struggle for me is how far away the Douglas and Waycross campuses are from each other. Having to drive so far for classes can be really frustrating, especially if the class I need is only offered on one campus."

Interested in a Criminal Justice Degree?

SGA spoke with the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sara Selby, about upcoming changes to the academic calendar. We are happy to announce that by Fall 2027, you will be able to enter the Criminal Justice program through eMajor at SGSC, and graduate with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. The communities in Douglas and Waycross have supported SGSC for several generations, and this is a fantastic way to pour back into those same communities.

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and SGSC celebrated in several different ways. Students painted rocks with uplifting messages, SGA Senators lovingly delivered hand-written messages to residential students, all students were able to dress up for a Suicide Prevention Spirit Week, and female athletes "played with purpose" by donning purple and teal bows in their hair for their games!

SGSC Spotlight: Guess the Staff Member



Dr. Elliot's childhood photo / Dr. Elliot participating in SGA's Tally Scavenger Hunt Bingo

It's Dr. Brandi Elliott, Associate Vice President for Student Success! SGA asked Dr. Elliott a couple of questions about her life and her time as Associate VP of Student Success at SGSC.

Dr. Elliott received her B.A in Creative Writing from FSU ("Go Seminoles," she said), her Master's Degree from NOVA Southwestern in Florida, and she recently graduated with a PhD in Higher Education Administration from the Univeristy of West Georgia in 2025.

Dr. Elliott met her husband in the frozen food section of a Wal-Mart. They will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary next November in Hawaii, where they got married.

Dr. Elliott has 5 step-daughters and 8 grandchildren! She also has 2 dogs, lovingly named Clementine and Shane.
Fun Fact: Dr. Elliott recently rescued Clementine while at a SOAR event on the Waycross campus!

What is your favorite part of being Associate VP for Student Success?
"We have students from a bunch of different backgrounds and circumstances, and I care about all of them. My job is to make sure students can reach the goals that they have set for themselves, whatever that may be. I want all students to have the opportunity that college provides to impact the rest of their lives, and that means the staff in Student Success, too. SGSC as an institution impacts everyone, and that is what I love most about my job."

If you were starring in your favorite TV show, what show would it be and what character would you be playing?
"It would definitely be a comedy. I think life is too short to be serious. I think the show I would be on would be 'Curb Your Enthusiasm,' and I would be Jeff. He is the best friend of the main character, and he experiences all of the chaos, but he doesn't cause it. I don't want to cause the chaos, I just want the benefit of experiencing the chaos."

If you weren't Associate VP of Student Success, what would you be doing?
"I always wanted to be a poet, so I would be writing in some capacity. I also always said that when I retire, I want to name the dogs at the shelter. You know that if you go to the shelter and meet a dog named 'Dolly Parton' or 'Big Papa', you would be taking that dog home."

CLUB DISCOVERY

Join BCM! Bible Study & Food

Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) President, Leikle Roberts, and the BCM leadership team invites students, faculty, and staff to join their weekly Tuesday lunch and Bible study from 12:15–12:45 p.m. in the Dining Hall on Douglas campus. The gathering offers a free lunch, fellowship, and an opportunity to study the Bible, with everyone welcome to attend!

Contact their email below for more information:
SGSCinfo.bcm@gabaptist.org

Student Entrepreneur: Josiah Jackson



Colored By Jei Logo / Colored By Jei Pricing Information

Josiah Jackson is a Junior at SGSC, working towards becoming an esthetician. Josiah recently walked into a new life chapter by starting a business, Colored by Jei. Offering Poly Gel and Gel X nails, possibly custom press-ons in the future, Colored by Jei can be your new local nail artist!

As a student himself, Josiah understands the need for affordable pricing. Nails usually starting at $35+ are only $20+ with a limited time student discount! Find Josiah's work at @colorbyjei on all socials. SGA appreciates Josiah reaching out to us and we hope to continue to see the business blossom!



President's House, aka Alumni House (August 2015)

Fun Fact about SGSC!

Did you know the Douglas campus Alumni House was originally known as the President's house? It was built in 1953 for former College President William S. Smith's family, who's name is also represented at the Douglas SGSC library! His daughter, Diana Smith Highsmith, grew up in that house, experiencing college campus life all throughout grade school, sitting in on classes at 8 years old and experiencing first dates in the living room of the Alumni House.

The residential house was renovated in 2015 to function as an office and meeting space, now containing a conference room, catering kitchen, multiple offices, and guest bedroom suite.

Up Next in NITN:

Tally Hide & Seek! Spooky stories from around campus... Tally visits the elementary school!

WHAT'S UP IN SGA?

Student Government is preparing for spooky season at SGSC! Along with some fun Halloween events in the works, we are considering introducing a Journalism committee as part of SGA. If writing, interviews, newspapers, or journalism in general interest you, email SGA with your ideas for getting involved! Maybe you could see your own writing in the next volume of News in the Nest!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SGA?

Tally's feeling ready to take down the Clower Center competition! The Student Government Association will be hosting a Tally Takedown Game Night in Clower (Douglas), on October 9th. Challenge Tally to some classic games and see if you can make the podium! Stay tuned and check your email for Communications and event details.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS:

- Sept. 25th - Positive Dorm Mail
- Sept. 28th - Cookout (Douglas)
- Sept. 29th - Cookout (Waycross)
- Oct. 3rd - Gopher Tortoise Festival SGSC Booth
- Oct. 9th - Tally Takedown (Douglas)
- Oct. 26th - Halloween Party
- Oct. 29th - EAC Costume Contest
- Oct 29th - SGA Cauldron Chaos

Check your email regularly for Communications, event information, and updates!