

# The HOOPEE BIRD



THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS OF EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

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## Congratulations, Class of 2017!

by CHASSIDY BYRD

This past December, it was upon us again! Yes, graduation time... where we cram our brains and we drain ourselves emotionally and physically. Graduation and the end of the semester is the part of your college life where everything seems to be a tad bit harder. Throughout your college years, you have experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly and the closer you get to your goal/main focus, the easier it becomes to breathe.

I will be the first to say that school is extremely tiring but often times we have to remind ourselves that it is very much worth it. I mean...come on, most of us start school at the age of four, maybe five. At that point, we are learning how to count, color, and say our ABC's;

you know? The easy stuff. From pre-k to 5th grade, everything is sailing smoothly and then--boom--here comes junior high/middle school.

Some may beg to differ but this is when life really happens; you are all of a sudden taking sex ed. and learning about careers, and finances. From middle school through high school, everything gets harder and harder, from the schoolwork to trying to fit in, to struggling to find something to wear on the first day of school. Then, there is college. The world never makes getting an education easy. However, what makes it easier is setting goals, gaining perseverance, strive, and dedication.

We can all agree that college has held some of the best times of our

lives as well as some of the worse. Through long nights of studying, through losing your social life, through tears, through failures, and even through stress, it is safe to say "You made it!"

Sixteen years (from first grade to college) of pure education. For most, that is over half of your lifetime. I say that to say you have come this far so *do not stop here!* Every chance you get, read, write, and learn new things. High school graduation was just the start of conquering college, but college graduation is the start of conquering the world. Be the change, stay true to who you are, and always strive to be qualified not just certified.

Congratulations to all of East Georgia State Col-



GRADUATES CELEBRATE WITH PROFESSORS AFTER THE CEREMONY

## Gone but not forgotten: Celebrating the life of Taylor Hooks

by KHOLTON HAMANN

Taylor Hooks lived a selfless, caring life in the nineteen years Swainsboro, as a community, were blessed with. She lived an easy-going lifestyle, always determined and focused on the task in front of her. Taylor was one to remind her friends that every moment of life mattered, showing her friends knew how much Taylor genuinely cared for those close to her. Friends describe her laugh as contagious, one that would make anyone

nearby smile just from hearing it, even if she came off

Taylor was highly devoted to accomplish many tasks during her years in Swainsboro, in her eyes, achieving high academic success was all just apart of the equation. Taylor received awards from clubs such as the Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America and academic awards such as Highest Average Chemistry and Academic Excellence. Taylor graduated with the class of 2016, and attended East Georgia in the fall directly after high school. Here at EFSC Taylor received the Correll Scholarship, the East Georgia State College Leadership Scholarship, along with the Johnson Coca-Cola and Pin Hi



HOOKS

Scholarships. Taylor was dedicated, and worked hard to receive all of the above accomplishments, she would never let anything get the best of her.

Outside of the classroom, Taylor fell in love with horses at a young age, and would ride horseback with two of her own horses frequently, especially when

she needed to clear her mind. Riding on horseback was one of the most peaceful places for Taylor, she was so comfortable that she competed with some of the best at the sport of Barrel Racing. Taylor was a top 5 finalist at the All American Youth Barrel Race, also finishing into the (Continued on Page 2)

**FIRST FRIDAY**

THE *Morgan* HOUSE

of East Georgia State College

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**EVERY MONTH!**

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East Georgia's "voice of the students" wants to hear from you!

If you are interested in writing for *The Hoopee Bird*, contact our advisor:

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**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must be accompanied by the author's name, phone number and email address. All columns and letters to the editor are the opinion of the author. The views expressed in the Editorial section do not necessarily express those of the *The Hoopee Bird*.



# YOUR CAMPUS, YOUR COMMUNITY

## Not forgotten...

(From Front)  
Taylor enjoyed staying aware of current trends in today's fashion, and even worked at Dot, a local boutique here in Swainsboro. In her free time, Taylor crafted stack bracelets, making really beautiful bracelets for her and her friends. Her friends talk about how much she loved decoration, not just in style, but also for the holidays.

Down to her roots was an understatement. Taylor took pride in the role of a local girl and involved herself in the

community of Swainsboro. She enjoyed calling herself a southern girl, one that will always speak her mind; but never back down for a fight. She loved the sight of an old dirt road and a horse waiting to be tamed. Her strongest quality came from her friendship, one that one could count on, she was always only a phone call away. Taylor celebrated life to the fullest, and now as a student body, we are able to celebrate her even more.

*The Hoopee Bird would like to extend gratitude towards Avery Berry and Madison Payne for their contribution of information in this article.*



## Recommendations from the EGSC Library

**by EGSC Library Staff**  
Looking for a book recommendation?

All the books we review are available at the EGSC Library for check-out.

Looking for a book that we don't have? Let us know, and we can order it for you from another library for free.

### Interested in Poetry?

Katie Shepard recommends: *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur

This collection, divided into four sections, has beautiful poems on love and heartbreak and everything in between. The poems are accompanied by line drawings from the author. Kaur is popular on Instagram, too, if you'd like to see what she's working on right now.

If you like this collection, we also have her newest release, *The Sun and Her Flowers*.

### Interested in a Classic?

Sarah Fraticelli recom-

mends: *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

Set in the fictional town of Starkfield, a short read in which the characters' interior lives mirror the landscape around them. I recommend this book because it is a short, compact story, and I enjoyed Wharton's writing style. (A classic worth reading, and even better if you can discuss with others afterwards!)

### Interested in Fiction?

Katie Shepard recommends: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

A story about the intersection of middle class, rule-following society and a nomadic artist's lifestyle opens with a house burning down as the family gathers around and watches it burn. Throw in a subplot about adoption that divides the town, and you have one of the best books published in 2017.

## Choosing your major in college

by MIAYA LUNDY

East Georgia State College offers so many majors: art, biology, business administration, chemistry, communication art, early childhood education, etc.; but a major is only as good as the person choosing it. There are a number of people that come to college and don't have their mind made up on what they want to major in.

The advice I would give is to first ask for help and utilize the people around you. Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone and talk to professors, friends, class-

mates or maybe even roommates. You can also browse the web and look for careers that you may like. That will narrow down options for you as well.

One more major thing when deciding is being completely focused. People tend to come to college and not have their head in the game. You don't want to waste a lot of time trying to figure this out because it can add time to your college experience. If it takes a while, just be patient. I believe that you will soon figure it out.

**BE THE FIRST TO KNOW**

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CONTACT OUR ADVISOR  
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## What makes a good teacher?

by MIAYA LUNDY

What makes someone a good teacher is someone who knows the basic fundamentals of being a teacher. There is difference between knowing the fundamentals of the subject and knowing the fundamentals of teaching.

A good teacher is someone who is passionate about their job and passionate about the student learning. A good teacher is also someone who has great communication skills. She/he should not only teach, but should be a good listener.

Teachers are vital in student's lives and should understand their roles. Good teachers are also organized and creative when it comes to the teaching method that they use. A good teacher must also be concerned about the students because most students view them as a role model.

Setting an example for the students should be the most important aspect of teaching. It's not about the material being taught that makes a good teacher stand out... it's the way that they teach the material.

## See you there!

### EVENTS AT EGSC

- Jan. 8 .... Welcome Back, Students!  
Full Term / Session I Classes Begin
- Jan. 9 .... Transfer Tuesday  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Cyber Café
- Jan. 10 .... Final Fee Payment Deadline  
Swainsboro / Statesboro ONLY
- Jan. 11 .... ThinkFast Game Show  
No Drinking and Driving  
7:30 p.m. - Auditorium
- Jan. 15 .... Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 18 .... Nursing Program White Coat Ceremony - 6 p.m. - Auditorium
- Jan. 24 .... Women's Basketball Game  
5:30 p.m. Gym  
Men's Basketball Game  
7:30 p.m. Gym
- Jan. 25 .... Culture of Respect Discussion Session  
11 a.m. - Social Science Conference Room
- Jan. 27 .... Women's Basketball Game  
2 p.m. Gym  
Men's Basketball Game  
4 p.m. Gym
- Feb. 1 .... Session I Last Day to Withdraw  
Financial Aid Refunds
- Feb. 2 .... Miss EGSC Pageant Rehearsals  
5 - 11 p.m. Auditorium
- Feb. 3 .... Men's Basketball Game  
4 p.m. Gym  
Miss EGSC Pageant  
6 p.m. Auditorium
- Feb. 8 .... Culture of Respect Discussion Session  
11 a.m. Social Science Conference Room
- Feb. 9 .... Economic Outlook Luncheon  
12 p.m. Gym
- Feb. 10 .... Men's Basketball Game  
4 p.m. Gym
- Feb. 12 - 17 .... Homecoming Week
- Feb. 13 .... Blood Drive  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quad  
Transfer Tuesday  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cyber Café
- Feb. 16 .... Arbor Day Celebration  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Feb. 17 .... Women's Basketball Game  
2 p.m. Gym  
Men's Basketball Game  
4 p.m. Gym
- Feb. 21 .... Women's Basketball Game  
5:30 p.m. Gym  
Men's Basketball Game  
7:30 p.m. Gym
- Feb. 24 .... Science Olympiad  
8 a.m.
- Feb. 26 .... Augusta Last Day to Withdraw
- Feb. 28 .... Full Term Withdrawal Deadline  
Swainsboro / Statesboro ONLY  
Session I Ends

**REMEMBER**  
- TO -  
**REGISTER!**

Spring 2018  
Registration  
going on now!

Searching for scholarships?  
*Look no further!*  
Go to [www.ega.edu/scholarships](http://www.ega.edu/scholarships) and click the link for online scholarship applications.

## The Hoopee Bird East Georgia State College

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## Student LIFE

**There's something for everyone at East Georgia State College!**

- Student Government Association**  
The Student Government Association is the campus organization governing student activities and representing the students in college affairs. SGA members are elected by the student body.
- Student Ambassadors**  
The East Georgia State College Student Ambassadors promote collegiate pride in EGSC and help facilitate awareness of campus programs and services.
- African American Male Initiative**  
The African American Male Initiative serves the young African American men of EGSC by instilling the values of Dedication, Respect, Inspiration, Vigilance and Excellence (D.R.I.V.E.)
- The Hoopee Bird**  
First published on January 28, 1974, *The Hoopee Bird* is the voice of the students of East Georgia State College. This free monthly newspaper features news, sports, entertainment, editorials, calendars, and more from each campus in Swainsboro, Statesboro, and Augusta.
- Wiregrass**  
Wiregrass is an annual literary and arts journal of East Georgia State College featuring our talented students, faculty and staff.
- Clubs**  
Intramural Sports  
Disc Golf  
and More!

Visit [www.ega.edu/student\\_life](http://www.ega.edu/student_life) to learn about all our activities!



# STUDENT VOICES



## The importance of studying foreign languages

by CHASSIDY BYRD

In May of 2017, I had the opportunity to tutor elementary and high school students. That should be exciting, right? Not for me--at least not this summer. Although it was months ago, I can still remember it as though it was yesterday.

There was a young girl who came into the tutoring program, no older than eight years old. I spent an entire week just talking while she listened. One day, I noticed her crying during snack time and I simply asked her what was wrong, in English, of course. For the life of me, I could not figure out why she only stared and never responded.

Someone finally explained to me that she did not speak English

and Spanish was all she knew. She was not crying because she spilled her milk or because someone stole her snack. She was crying because she felt left out and did not understand anyone.

From this summer's experience, the question "why am I learning Spanish?" now turns into "why do I desire to learn Spanish?" My passion to learn different languages is what changes this question, but it is my compassion for people that allows me to answer the question.

This world is extremely diverse, made up of several different cultures, ethnicities, and races. Many racial problems stem from the inability to understand one another. Therefore, we should learn Spanish and other

foreign languages so that we can better assist and communicate with others.

We all have goals laid out before us. We all picture what we want to do and who we want to become. Many of us see desire to work in business, network, and travel the world and I am confident that learning how to effectively, communicate through different languages will make those things more exciting and bring much success.

I challenge you to learn as many languages as possible. With everything going on in today's world, we should never make others feel left out and/or misunderstood because our lack of knowledge to understand them.

## The Year of the Underdog

by KOHLTON HAMANN

As 2017 comes to an end, this has been a year for the underdog in professional sports.

In baseball, the Houston Astros outlasted the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games in the Major League Baseball World Series. The road to get to the championship was not easy for either team; however, the Astros took the crown after beating the top three richest teams in the league. Major League Baseball has no cap limit, meaning that as long as the team has the money, they can spend it in order to create the team that is desired. The Boston Red Sox are the third richest team in the MLB, with a team value over \$2.3 billion.

In the American League Championship Series, the Astros played the league's richest team, the New York Yankees, who are valued to be worth \$3.4 billion. In the World Series, they played the Dodgers, who, according to Forbes, has a team value of \$2.5 billion. In one of baseball's most thrilling World Series since 2004, Jose Altuve and the Astros won 5-1 in Los Angeles in game seven so a championship was brought back to a city that needed it most after devastation took place in the city of Houston resulting from hurricane Harvey.

In the National Football League, the state of Georgia was proud as the Atlanta Falcons played in the Super Bowl. With the number-one offense in

the league and the NFL Most Valuable Player at the helm, Matt Ryan and the Falcons appeared poised to take home the Lombardi Trophy after holding a demanding eighteen point lead at half-time.

After the half, Tom Brady led the New England Patriots back to tie the ball game at twenty-eight as clock for the fourth quarter expired. In overtime, the underdog prevailed as the New England Patriots pulled off the largest comeback in Super Bowl history, winning 34-28.

In college football, one of the most surprising comebacks of the century came against an Alabama team who had one of the most notoriously great defenses. Alabama posted the highest scoring defenses in the FBS along with striking for 45 sacks in the 2016-2017 season. Leading 24 to 14 going into the fourth quarter, Alabama appeared to be on its way to yet another title, establishing themselves as one of the most dominant football programs in college football history. Deshaun Watson was not sold on that statement; however, being that he helped Clemson score twenty-one points in the fourth quarter. With six seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, with Clemson losing 28-31, Watson hits his receiver for a touchdown on 1st and goal, securing a four point victory over an Alabama team that experts claimed to be "unbeatable."

## PTK explores individualism and collectivism in Honors in Action research

by BETHANEY FORTNER, PTK President

The Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Beta Iota Beta, recently completed academic research criteria for the annual Honors in Action Project. During spring semester, students chose the theme "Individualism vs. Collectivism," which includes the primary research question, "How are the principles of individualism and collectivism manifested differently across the world?" Officers and members of the EGSC chapter accessed GIL express books from different libraries across the University System of Georgia, while also compiling research from the online database, Galileo. The topic of whether the world is growing more and more collectivist has continued to raise more and more concern worldwide. Some believe it is best to be solely individualist and achieve one's own goals, whereas others, especially those of certain faiths such as Christian, settle on the idea of collectivism. From this perspective, one must work with others to achieve a common goal, and it is through the help of others that individual success is obtained.

Unwrapping a bit of the research,

some curious insight can be found from both points of view. Peter L. Callero writes in *The Myth of Individualism: How Social Forces Shape Our Lives*, "We cannot escape group membership—nor should we. Groups provide the fertile social context from which language sprouts. Groups provide security and build trust." Obviously, this is from a pro-collectivism standpoint. David Brooks's *The Road to Character* brings forth the idea of Adam I and Adam II, arguing that every person has an internal conflict. Justin Marcus's insert in the *Journal of Organizational Behavior* displays the idea that collectivism typically has a better outcome in society and across the world.

The final decision on whether individualism is better than collectivism is left to the individual. However, PTK members have their own beliefs now due to research. Across the world, throughout nations and religions, collectivism and individualism are manifested differently. As for college campuses, especially East Georgia State College, students as well as faculty and staff can be more beneficial to themselves as well as society if a collectivistic approach is taken.

## Do your own research

by MIAYA LUNDY

I was thinking about joining the Army Reserves. I have heard so much about it and how it can help you financially with college loans and how simple it is. There was more hearsay about the quick money and how your family can benefit from it and more, but I realized that it is one thing to hear something from someone but it's another when you do your own research.

My cousin was telling me about the contracts and that she was on a six-year contract. I heard that it was also more contract options as well, like a four-year and that was also of my options. Later that night, I researched and what I heard was totally different from what I really researched.

First off, the max time for anyone to severe is eight years, so if I were to do the reserves, I would do four years active and the last four under an individual ready reserve (IRR). Active in

the reserves means that I would have to go every weekend out of the month for four years and two weeks out of the year. The last four will be individual ready, which means you don't have to do that anymore, but, just like active, they can deploy you at any time.

This is information that I did not know and needed to be aware of. It doesn't make me scared, it just makes me cautious about what I'm really signing myself up for.

People don't always read the fine print, so they get into something and expect more and end up not getting it. Everyone has their personal reasons for joining. I'm not saying that some of the hearsay wasn't true, because they do help you with school funds and other things, so there are a lot of great benefits, but it is still important to understand whatever it is you're putting your name on the line for.



McCrimmon speaks at Commencement Practice

by KATELYN MOORE, EGSC Communications Coordinator

On Friday, December 8, 2017, former East Georgia State College professor Sue Ella McCrimmon addressed students assembled for commencement practice.

She was welcomed to the podium by EGSC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Elizabeth Gilmer, who spoke of McCrimmon as "a teacher who rarely had an empty seat in her classroom. Students registered quickly for

her classes because they knew they would be interesting, fun and always challenging."

The full text of Gilmer's introduction and McCrimmon's speech can be found at <http://www.ega.edu/articles/detail/mc-crimmon-speaks-at-commencement-practice>.

Photos from Commencement practice and from the Fall 2017 Commencement Ceremony can be found on EGSC's Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eg-cpr/sets/>

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- TO -  
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Registration  
going on now!

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on campus?**  
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EGSCStatesboro  
EastGeorgiaStateCollegeAugusta  
EGSCBobcats



# EGSC'S FALL CLASS OF 2017

## SUMMER 2017 GRADUATES

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

Nicole A. Abrams  
Wail F. Alshuaibi  
Rayce D. Attebery  
Jada M. Baker  
Hunter A. Bragg  
Antonio M. Brantley  
Dana V. Bright  
Brittany N. Brown  
Jabriel S. Butler  
Bracy M. Cato

Mikala L. Champion  
Heather S. Corbin  
Nishayla L. Daniels  
De'maya S. Davis  
Chakita D. Durden  
Jahmari L. Etienne  
Cody L. Fielder  
Todd R. Friedel  
Kayla S. George  
Shelby B. Harris

Alesia B. Henderson  
Jonathan S. Jay  
Grayson C. Johnson  
Delvin D. Jones  
Keshaua R. Jones  
Shunseeve S. Kent  
Brandon M. Kight  
Tiffany C. KoKotis  
Carlton Lanier, Jr.  
Myles J. Latimer

DeMarcus L. Maxwell  
Benjamin B. Mayes, III  
Tiara A. McDuffie  
Jahala B. McLain  
Kimbriana S. Mincey  
Hanan D. Mitchell  
Keenen C. Mitchell  
Melitta B. Myricks  
Ashley M. O'Neil  
Benjamin S. Porter

Rance A. Powell  
Zachary N. Proctor  
Markel T. Robinson  
Antonio N. Rodgers  
Celeste Rodriguez-Teran  
Maxwell J. Ryan  
Ariel M. Ryans  
Akeyla L. Sharpe  
Kaleya C. Sharpe  
Dustin D. Shattles

Tranae D. Smith  
Akaria T. Stewart  
Torrence J. Thomas  
Dylan G. Toole  
Shawneki W. Weaver  
George K. Whitaker  
Destiny D. Williams  
Keishuna T. Williams

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Phillip W. Brigham

David H. Kimbrell

## FALL 2017 GRADUATES

### ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

Jana A. Bowen

Caleb R. Brown

Matt W. Donaldson

Kaitlin B. Hill

Taylor L. Waters

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

Ayla S. Amos  
Kelby D. Anderson  
Tatyana I. Ashley  
Stephen A. Beasley  
Avery L. Berry  
Kathryn E. Boula  
Danai A. Boyd  
Matthew C. Boyd  
Darryl L. Brabham  
Carla D. Brown  
Ashley E. Bush  
Lorena Cisneros  
Sarah K. Coleman  
Lauren D. Conner  
Christian A. Corde-

ro-Kenney  
Rebecca L. Driggers  
Benjamin D. Echols  
Brianna K. Edmond  
Megan T. Faircloth  
Caleb J. Fields  
Paris J. Glasper  
Baughman H. Goodin  
Madeline E. Gould  
Shabiente L. Grant  
Kristen D. Hardison  
Jermyrus D. Hastings  
Jenna N. Hazle  
Elizabeth A. Hobbs  
Earnisha L. Holliday

Kaitlyn E. Hubbard  
Ladonna S. Jenkins  
Rochelle C. Johnson  
Desmond M. Jordan  
Destiny S. Jordan  
Sha-quana L. Kendrick  
Rashida K. King  
Charity M. Langston  
Thang S. Lieu  
Morgan R. Link  
Taisha L. Little  
Jasmine Lloyd  
Julian M. Lockley  
Jarvis M. Lovett  
Kylie B. Marsh

Robert L. Marsh  
Naomi E. Mason  
Karly M. McDonald  
Hunter E. McElmurray  
Francisco X. Mejia  
Jackson R. Miles  
Christopher A. Mobley  
Marissa J. Mobley  
Tori A. Moody  
Lonique F. Morman  
Earnest Palmer, III  
Bianca M. Parra  
Brianna N. Powell  
Joseph A. Powell  
Brandon T. Roberson

Detris L. Roberson  
Alison N. Seamans  
Catelyn N. Sherrod  
Robyn D. Shipmon  
Amy J. Silva  
Briauna S. Simmons  
Anna E. Simons  
Audreanna D. Smith  
Luke A. Smith  
Shanell N. Smith  
Angelica L. Spaulding  
Tykeria S. Tann  
Jacquez B. Tate  
Richard T. Taylor  
Aleysha L. Torres

Sasshay J. Tremble  
Trontavis F. Usry  
Jamari D. Wesley  
Caitlyn R. Wheeler  
Kayla M. Wheeler  
Jordan L. Whorley  
Alexandria V. Wilcox  
Cole F. Williams  
James B. Woodard  
Willie A. Worthen

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Joleishia N. Cooper

Lindsey M. Howell

Alicia C. Winfrey



DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, DR. LEE CHEEK; BRIGHAM AND WALKER

## EGSC celebrates first graduates from FESA Bachelor's Degree

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, during East Georgia State College's Fall Commencement Ceremony, the first graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Fire and Emergency Services Administration received their degrees. Phillip Brigham was present to walk across the stage, and fellow graduate David Kimbrell was also recognized. Both students graduated at the end of Summer 2017.

Brigham entered EGSC in the Spring of 2016 and is currently a firefighter/EMT at the Augusta Regional Airport Fire Department in Augusta, Ga. He also works an EMT for the local ambulance provider. Brigham started his venture into public safety in 2002 as a volunteer firefighter. He has held a few different positions in public safety that include firefighting, EMS, and air medical transport. He is a member of the Augusta Professional Firefighters Association (IAFF Local 3357) and presently serves as their secretary. He is looking forward to the doors that this degree will open up in the future for his career. He is married and they have four children.

Kimbrell recently retired as the Di-

rector of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Hall County, Ga., and is presently working as a consultant in the fire and EMS fields. He joined EGSC in the Spring semester 2016 and is a member of the FESA Advisory Council. He has a long history in public safety, having worked in the field for 33 years. He was Fire Chief in Hall County for ten years. He retired as fire chief in 2014 and subsequently served as the EMA Director. He is active with the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, serving with the board for the past 14 years. He is married with a blended family of five children and four grandchildren. Kimbrell serves on several non-profit boards and associations.

"I could not be more proud of these two fine individuals, and all of our FESA students," said FESA Program Director Beverley Walker. "Both David and Philip worked very hard in the program, and sacrificed much. They are an asset to the fire and emergency services field, and I am confident they will continue to have a huge impact in their respective communities."



DRUMMER SPEAKS TO GRADUATES

## Fall Commencement held at EGSC

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, East Georgia State College held their Fall Commencement Ceremony, recognizing graduates from the Summer and Fall semesters. Students graduated with their Associate of Arts, Associate in Science, Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees during the ceremony.

Alumni speaker for the event was Dr. Andrew Darley, EGSC Class of 2008, who wrote the EGSC Alma Mater. "Commencement is an important milestone for students," he said. "Graduates, you have earned a degree from an outstanding institution and I congratulate you."

The student speaker was Student Government Association President Kandanasia "Kandy" McNeal, who said, "You have all worked so hard to get to where you are today. You did it; you made it. You are tomorrow's leaders and you will make a difference in the world."

Commencement speaker for the occasion was EGSC Professor of Mathematics and head of the African American Male Initiative, Antré Drummer.

"When you embrace where you come from,

you have a place to measure your growth," Drummer began, talking about his childhood in poverty in Millen. "When I was growing up, my goal was to grow up, get out, go to the Army, learn some stuff, and come back home. When it came time to take the physical for the Army, my knee had swelled up and they said they couldn't take me. I came home and my mom had signed me up for East Georgia."

"She enrolled me in these classes, and she signed up for the classes with me. She was sitting in class with me!" he said. "How was I going to holler at any ladies with Mom sitting right there? But I watched her. Class was an escape for her. She would be more happy than she ever was at home."

"When you're going through life, success is a challenge, and with challenges come a lot of mistakes," he said. "I encourage you to learn from your mistakes and learn from the mistakes of others. Make a conscious decision and choose not to blame. Don't blame your past, don't blame your environment, don't blame other people. Take ownership for the things

that you do. Take ownership for the things that you fail at. Failing is an easy thing to do, but one thing I encourage you to fail at is to fail to blame. When you fail to blame, you learn quicker. You're not looking at other people as a problem."

"Make your plans, go your ways, but remember who is establishing your footsteps," said Drummer, closing his speech by quoting Proverbs 16:9.

Dr. Deborah Vess, Vice President of Academic Affairs, then presented the Associate in Science degrees, Associate of Arts degrees, the first Bachelor of Arts in Fire and Emergency Services Administration degrees and the Bachelor of Science in Biology degrees. Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Richard L. Brown Dining Hall for all in attendance.

The full video of the ceremony can be found on EGSC's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1-EQkoC8PRw>. Photos from the ceremony can be found on the EGSC Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/egcpr/albums/72157688268056292>

Congratulations to all EGSC 2017 graduates!