

The HOOPEE BIRD



THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS OF
EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

WWW.EGA.EDU

Volume 44, Number 2

131 College Circle, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401

Price: FREE

Bobcats Go Green: Science teacher starts Conservation Club in Statesboro

by LOGAN LEE

"I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act like you would in a crisis. I want you to act like your house is on fire, because it is."

These were the fiery words given by sixteen-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg at the United Nations in 2019. While her message was meant for world leaders, it has inspired many to come together in the name of environmentalism.

One man so inspired is Jason Lee, an associ-

ate professor of biology and integrated science at East Georgia's campus in Statesboro. He claims that now is the time to act on behalf of the environment, and that he is doing his part by forming a club of like-minded students dedicated to spreading awareness about pollution and climate change and, when possible, doing their part in the community.

According to Lee, the club is still in the making, and he doesn't have all of the details as of yet, but he does have plans to take the members of this club to Tybee for a beach cleanup day soon.



LEE

DECEMBER 7 @ 7 P.M.
DECEMBER 8 @ 3 P.M.
LUCK F. GAMBRELL CENTER AUDITORIUM
EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE
TICKETS \$10 EACH/\$5 STUDENTS

Senator Williams to speak at Fall 2019 Commencement

On Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 10 a.m., East Georgia State College will hold their annual Fall Commencement Ceremony in the gymnasium. Graduation speaker for the event will be Senator Nikema Williams, the District 39 representative in the Georgia State Senate. Alumni speaker will be John Allen Bailey, and student speaker will be Megan Bryant.

The ceremony will see

students from the Fall and Summer semesters walk across the stage to be presented with their degrees. Each semester, students earning their Bachelor of Science in Biology, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Arts in Fire and Emergency Services Administration, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Certificate of Work Readiness Skills take the stage to receive their degrees from Pres-

ident Bob Boehmer. EGSC is excited to welcome these students into the prestigious group of alumni that have earned their degree from East Georgia State College, East Georgia College or Emanuel County Junior College since the college's founding in 1973.

Please join us for this very special ceremony in December. We hope to see you there, and congratulations to all of our graduates!



WILLIAMS



Are you ready?

by KIERSTAN TY'LYN SAMON'E LEEKS

At East Georgia State College, Statesboro, the Student Government Association held a Voter Registration Event on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

It is very true that every vote counts. No vote is too big nor small. Most young adults in college feel they do not have enough time in the day; however, during this event we learned that half of the student body had already registered to vote! We had a few late comers, and we also had students who were waiting on us to set up so they could register. We advertised, we yelled, we walked the halls, and we managed to sign up thirty-four new voters. We even managed to turn a few "No, Thanks!" into "You said it would only take a second and I get free Candy, bet!" Surprisingly we even had some who did not remember that they were already registered.

Overall this event was a huge eye opener to students as well as staff. I can only hope the rest of the events planned in the semester have great turn outs just like this one did.



THE MORGAN HOUSE OF EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

Join us at The Morgan House

by M. KATELYN MOORE, EGSC Marketing Coordinator

On the first Friday of every month, Swainsboro residents traveling on West Moring Street are treated to the sight

of the former home of Jimmy and Jean Morgan lit up and full of fun and laughter. Cars line the streets and the East Georgia State College Bobcat Express picks up and drops off students throughout the evening.

Donated to East Georgia State College in 2015 by the Morgan family, The Morgan House has become a fixture in EGSC's continuing focus on bringing the community and college closer together. In addition to

the monthly First Friday events, which are hosted each month by a different campus group and feature music and art as well as refreshments, The Morgan House also functions as a place for groups to hold meetings or retreats, couples to stage wedding photos, and more.

Jimmy and Jean Morgan have been involved in the life of East Georgia State College for many years, with Mrs. Morgan serving as the first Chair

of the EGSC Foundation and founding the Vision Series to help bring musical events, well-known speakers, authors, and other dignitaries to the campus for the benefit of the students, faculty, staff and surrounding community. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan were a fixture at events on campus and were regular donors to the Foundation. The Student Activities Center at the EGSC-Swainsboro campus was named for

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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:
STEVE LAVENDER
slavende@ega.edu



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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*.



AROUND CAMPUS

Library happenings: Changes at EGSC

by BONNIE N. NASH
The East Georgia State College Library, located in the Luck Flanders Gambrell building, is under new leadership with having welcomed Beth Jones as the new Library Director back in July. This new change in leadership is leading to many new and fun things happening in the library!

The week of September 23rd, the library held a READ-a-thon in observance of Banned Books Week. There were many faculty and staff members, even a community member from the District Attorney's office, who came to read an excerpt from a banned book. EGSC President, Dr. Bob Boehmer kicked off the week by reading an excerpt from *Of Mice*



STUDENTS TAKING A STUDY BREAK IN THE LIBRARY

and *Men* and there was a huge turnout of faculty, staff, and students. During this week, the library also had a mugshot photobooth that was Azkaban-themed and a table of banned book week coloring pages. They were a huge success

and are the beginning of many more fun things the library will be having for its patrons to use.

The library is currently in the process of creating a makerspace area. A makerspace is simply an area where patrons can create, explore, and relax

using a variety of interactive things. Currently set up is a building blocks table and coloring pages. Blackout poetry, K'Nex, and other things are in the works for this area. The library also hopes to have the 3D printer up and running as part of this area by Spring 2020 semester. Also, in an effort to increase the number of patrons, the library now has board and card games available for check-out. They are available for two days and there is a broad selection to choose from, including Cards Against Humanity, Monopoly, and even chess!

Libraries are constantly changing and evolving into centers of community and fun for everyone.



THE CHESS SET IS POPULAR WITH STUDENTS

See you there!

EVENTS AT EGSC

- Nov. 20 ... Criminal Justice Club Meeting - 3 p.m.
Drama Club Meetings - 4 p.m.
Women's Home Basketball Game - 5:30 p.m.
Men's Home Basketball Game - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 21 Super-Duper Exponentialicious Book Club Meeting - 3 p.m.
Staff Leadership Development Meeting - 3:30 p.m.
SHS Beta Lights Talent Show - 7 p.m.
- Nov. 22 ... SGA Meeting 3 p.m.
- November 25 - 29 Thanksgiving Break - Swainsboro/Statesboro
- Nov. 25 ... Dance Club Practice - 7 p.m.
- Nov. 26 BCM Meeting - 2 p.m.
Women's Home Basketball Game - 2 p.m.
Dance Club Practice - 7 p.m.
Unity Club Meeting - 7 p.m.
- November 27 - 29 Thanksgiving Break - All Campuses
- Nov. 27 Criminal Justice Club Meeting - 3 p.m.
Drama Club Meetings - 4 p.m.
- Dec. 2 Dance Club Practice - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3 BCM Meeting - 2 p.m.
Dance Club Practice - 7 p.m.
Unity Club Meeting - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 4 Full Term and Session II Classes End - Augusta
Criminal Justice Club Meeting - 3 p.m.
Drama Club Meetings - 4 p.m.
Men's Home Basketball Game - 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5 Reading Day - Augusta Only
- Dec. 6 Final Exams - Augusta Only
Last Day Full Session & Session II - Swainsboro/Statesboro
Student Life Toy Drive Ends
SGA Meeting - 3 p.m.
First Friday at The Morgan House 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Makayla Wilder Exit Art Show - 5:30 p.m.

The halls are alive with the sound of music

by DR. ALAN BRASHER

Musicmakers Anonymous has the dubious distinction of being East Georgia State College's longest running unofficial club. It grew out of an August 1997 advising session with transfer student Brian Brown. Our purpose is the development of musical talent and the musical

fellowship that builds community.

Over the years it has been an on-again, off-again gathering whenever interest justifies weekly sessions. While early fliers heralded the sessions as "aimless freeform jams" held at "Uncle Al's Pickin' Parlor," the group has met everywhere on campus from empty classrooms

to the old smoking gazebo. Various iterations of the club have provided music for numerous college and community functions, both on and off campus.

The current gathering began in the spring of 2018 with student Bryan Gobourne's interest in playing and learning more about guitar. Bryan enlisted fellow student and musician Susanna Hall, and the club, mostly inactive for the past few years, began meeting in the student center.

"Honestly," says Gobourne, "Music Club has not only given me something to look forward to every Friday, but it has helped me to express myself through music. Seeing my friends come together each Friday, whether they're musicians or not, and step out of their comfort zone to sing, dance, or just casually clap, is an experience. I have learned so many new songs and new techniques on guitar that I wouldn't have



SOME CURRENT AND PAST MUSICMAKERS ON CAMPUS

learned otherwise. In addition, I have seen the more relaxed side of the literature teachers, just having fun playing music, and it really helps me to understand that teachers are people too. I would recommend anyone come to Music Club whether you're talented or not. There's just good stress releasing energy that all college students should experience and enjoy before they graduate. Music Club is one of the many wonders of East Georgia State College."

Hall adds, "Music club is without a doubt one of the most laid back and accepting groups on campus. It doesn't matter what your background is, what style music you like, what instrument you play—everyone is welcome. I've had the honor to glean from the musical wisdom of some of the most gifted musicians I know. This group of amazing people is going to be one of the major reasons leaving EGSC will be so bittersweet."

This semester the Mu-

sicmakers meet Friday afternoons at 1:30 in the common area outside the Humanities office suite. Club members generally convene at the college's First Friday events at the Morgan House as the core of the larger musical gathering each month. Recently, the club crashed a Senior Staff Meeting to ambush/serenade Dr. Boehmer with a rendition of Happy Birthday. So be warned, you can run but you cannot hide from Musicmakers Anonymous.

The Hoopee Bird East Georgia State College

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HOOP HOOP!

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Facebook.com/HoopeeBirdEGSC

STUDENT VOICES

Student opinions: November issues

The month of November is known for giving thanks. It is a month to show appreciation and share what you're thankful for. During this time of the year spent with our family and friends, memories are created. Time goes by too fast to take anything for granted; therefore, I interviewed a few of our East Georgia State College students to see what they are thankful for. Let's take a look!

with Kelsey Sellers



"I'm thankful to have the opportunity to get an education. I'm thankful to have a God that forgives me and loves me and gave me life. I'm thankful to grow up and experience life, regardless how tough it may be at times. I'm thankful that I get to appreciate the small things, for any day may be my last. I'm thankful for everything in my life and outside of it."

-Tara Hayslip

"Fall is my favorite time of the year. I love everything fall has to offer; the friends, food, and exciting adventures. There is nothing more enjoyable spending time with those you love. I am so thankful for the great times and love fall brings."

-Annie Harbin

"I'm thankful for my family, our business, and all the people we work with. Fall is our busiest time of year and I love getting to spend it with my great coworkers and friends. I'm thankful for them and our work family!"

-Susie Walters

"During this time of the year I am most thankful for my family. Fall brings us all together. Throughout the year everyone is so busy and going nonstop. The holidays are a time for us to all take time and relax as a whole. I enjoy going hunting, football, and of course eating all of the good food fall brings."

-Chace Ellison

"Since Thanksgiving is coming up, I have been thinking a lot more about the things that make me feel thankful. I am most thankful for my family and friends that always love, care, and support me through anything I chose to do. I am in my sophomore year of college at East Georgia State College, and I will be transferring to a new school next year. Although that new adventure may be scary, I am incredibly thankful that I am able to continue my education. It would not be possible without the support from my amazing parents and very encouraging friends. I am thankful for this chapter in my life and all the people I get to share with it."

-Marissa Meeks

During your busy schedule try to remember that you have so much to be thankful for, so count your blessings. On your free time ask yourself what you are thankful for!

The Morgan House...

(Continued from front)

Mrs. Morgan because of her hard work assuring the center would be built. It is now affectionately referred to as the JAM Center (for Jean Anderson Morgan).

The philanthropy of the Morgans and their willingness to serve their community is reflected in their gift of The Morgan House, and East Georgia State College continues to uphold their commitment to furthering the community through their use of the home.

"Every town has its special houses, and, I don't want to make anybody mad, but we don't all live in special houses. This is a special house," said Swainsboro Mayor Charles Schwabe at the Open House in May of 2015. "Dr. Boehmer and I have had many conversations about how to bring the community and the college closer together, because it is a win-win. For this wonderful family to make

this wonderful gesture puts us out ahead in the race."

Gay Fournier, daughter of the Morgans, said at the event, "Today is what I see as a pivotal point as the house goes from being our family center to us having a bigger family that embraces all of you."

EGSC has tried to live up to the incredible legacy left behind by the Morgans. Mr. Morgan passed away in 2014, and Mrs. Morgan in 2019. Their home continues to uphold their legacy of community service and has held almost 90 events since the official opening in summer of 2015.

These events include:

- First Friday at The Morgan House
- Mill Creek Foundation Meetings
- EGSC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Induction Ceremonies
- Non-Agenda Club Luncheons
- Daughters of the American Revolution



STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENJOY ONE OF THE BEGINNING FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE MORGAN HOUSE

Meetings

- Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours
- EGSC Cabinet Strategic Planning Retreats
- First United Methodist Church Pre-K Easter Egg Hunt
- EGSC's Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- Staff Leadership Development Program
- EGSC Department

Christmas Gatherings

- EGSC Art Department Semester Finals
 - EGSC Student Government Association Workshop
 - Morgan House Yard Sale
 - Work Day at The Morgan House
- The community is encouraged to join us at The Morgan House on the first Friday of each month, and keep an eye

out for other opportunities to enjoy this very special gift.

FIRST FRIDAY

521 W. MORING STREET • SWAINSBORO

5:30 - 7:30 P.M. EVERY MONTH!

A brief history of Thanksgiving

by HUNTER CARTER

Celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November, with a huge spread of food, surrounded by our loved ones, and going around the table, saying what we're most thankful for, a holiday everyone celebrates: Thanksgiving. The reason we celebrate Thanksgiving isn't why you think. Many seem to believe we celebrate this holiday because the Pilgrims invited the Indians to a feast in the Plymouth Colony to celebrate the first harvest; however, in 1789, George Washington declared Nov 26th to be a holiday and it wasn't connected to the Pilgrims. He intended for it to be celebrated as a public thanksgiving and prayer.

The holiday was still not a national holiday at that time. It wasn't until northerners dominated the government. A woman named Sarah Josepha Hale cam-

paigned for the national holiday and finally won the support from President Lincoln. Finally, on October 3, 1863, Lincoln Thanksgiving as a national holiday that is to be celebrated on the last Thursday of November.

Then in 1939, President Roosevelt decided to move the national holiday to the third Thursday to make the Christmas shopping season a little longer. There was some uproar about the date change, so two years later he decided to change it back to the fourth Thursday. As America started to become more urban and bits of family started moving away, Thanksgiving became the busiest travel time of the year and started being less about religion and more about just being with family--and an excuse to go shopping through the night during Black Friday.

Attention writers and artists!

by S.D. LAVENDER

We are now accepting submissions for the 2020 issue of Wiregrass. Please send your poetry and prose as word docs and your photos and artwork as jpeg files to slavende@ega.edu by February 14, 2020.

In addition, we are

proud to publish the winning entries from the annual Emily Pestana-Mason Memorial Poetry Contest. Emily was a beloved East Georgia poet and English professor. First place receives \$100, Second place \$50 and Third place \$25. Various poets and edu-

cators have been kind enough to serve as judges. For the last several years, Chris Mattingly, a former professor of English at EGSC who now teaches in Kentucky, has performed this role admirably. The contest is open now, so for more information contact Dr.

Alan Brasher at abrasher@ega.edu. The deadline is December 6.

We are looking forward putting out another great issue in April. To access past issues you can go to the EGSC home page, click on the Student Life and then on Student Publications.

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S COMING UP?

CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR AT CALENDAR.EGA.EDU

Want to write for the Wiregrass?
Email slavende@ega.edu for details!

DON'T MISS A MOMENT OF BOBCAT ATHLETICS
VISIT WWW.EGA.EDU/ATHLETICS FOR SCHEDULES FOR ALL FOUR OF OUR TEAMS!



FEATURES



LUZZI (SECOND FROM LEFT) AND CZERNY (FOURTH FROM LEFT) WITH STUDENTS IN THEIR HALLOWEEN ATTIRE

Bobcats get spooky in Statesboro


by REBECCA FERRON

EGSC's Statesboro campus got a bit spooky during Halloween week. Dr. Val Czerny, English Professor, encouraged students to dress up for Halloween for extra credit.

"I dressed up because it's easy extra credit," Woody stated, to which most of the students nodded their heads in agreement.

The A.C.E on Statesboro campus was also decked out for the month of October and Mr. Mike Luzzi dressed up as "Bert" the chimney sweep to compliment Dr. Czerny's Mary Poppins costume.

"I've been dressing up every Halloween to show students that they can have fun and be silly," said Mr. Luzzi.



A Conversation With Sherrie Helms
Director of Student Conduct
by Aaron Hardy

My name is Aaron Hardy. I had the pleasure of interviewing someone that I feel has a significant attribute to the campus environment. She puts the students and college safety at the highest rank. This is the Director of Student Conduct, Sherrie Helms. Our conversation follows:

SH What three factors are most important for student success?
Determination, reachable goals, and insight to resources.

SH What would you tell students about the importance of understanding the student code of conduct?
The Student Code of Conduct provides structure, safety, and accountability.

SH How are you involved in student retention?
I provide encouragement, structure, and information on campus resources.

SH What are some good ways to encourage college students to go to class and do their work?
I would emphasize the importance of attendance, which allows students to obtain classroom introduction and help to pass the course.

SH What could the college do to increase student participation at student life events and stay out of trouble?
Students should volunteer to plan and participate in campus activities and make campus activity suggestions.

SH How do you maintain a professional boundary with students?
By utilizing experience with students and personal life choices as a college student.

SH Do you collaborate with other departments when trying to assist students when they have violated a code of conduct?
Yes. We approach the incident in an educational way to encourage students to make healthier choices and learn from their unhealthy choices.

SH What are some current issues facing today's college student?
Time management, peer pressure, financial issues, and stressors.

SH What has been the biggest challenge you've faced in helping a student who may have limited resources?
Financial assistance and positive role models.

SH In instances of student discipline, are you allowed to share information with the parents of college students?
A signed FERPA form must be completed by the student in order to discuss any educational/discipline issues with parents.

SH What technology-based resources have you found most helpful when working with students?
Cell phones, email accounts, and GradesFirst.

SH My last question: what ideas do you have for reaching out to first-year students?
Know the campus resources. Participate in campus activities. Make healthy choices – exercise, eating habits. Have a good/positive support system – family, friends, instructors.

Educating our nurses: Dr. Upchurch

by SAMANTHA O'CONNELL

Fall of 2019 is coming to an end, and all different types of students will be graduating in December. Thirty of those students will have been in Dr. Linda Upchurch's online nursing class.

Dr. Upchurch has a doctoral degree in nursing and she's taught for more than ten years. Her nursing program is very student friendly and very affordable. She has been a director of an organization before, she's taught online, and she was an online student herself.

Accreditation for the course is being pursued, a difficult

process. In the future something new will be added to the program, but for now Dr. Upchurch's main goal is to grow the number of students in the program.

Did you know that the students graduating are becoming nurse practitioners or going to new leadership positions where they work? So far, in the spring semester of 2020, there will be ten new students taking the online nursing program. Since spring is coming up so fast, students are signing up for their courses and meeting with their advisors to get their academic plan set up.

To all the students taking



DR. UPCHURCH

classes next semester, I wish you all good luck on your path to success!

Meet our officers: Daniel McCoy

by ZOIE HARRELL

One person I find interesting at EGSC is Officer Daniel McCoy. Officer McCoy is someone who always has a smile. He is willing to help anyone who is in need. Officer McCoy can be found anywhere around campus. He constantly circulates around campus, making sure everything is okay. Officer McCoy has been a part of the East Georgia family for eight years. He says that he really enjoys this job and this campus.

To become a police officer there are many things that you must do. Officer McCoy told us everything he had to go through to become a police officer. The first type of training he went through was basic mandate training, an


eleven week-long live-in program. Officers go through 420 hours of lectures and hands-on training. The second type of training is chief certification, where an officer learns how to manage other officers and help make big decisions regarding the city's safety. One training that all officers must go through is the taser certification, and in order to be allowed to carry a taser you have to be tazed!

Officer McCoy said there were many reasons he wanted to become a police officer, but the main reason was to help people. He said that being able to make someone's day a little bit better was worth how hard the job can be. When asked what his favorite part of the



OFFICER MCCOY

job was, it was no surprise when he replied, "Making people smile."



BOBCAT Santa Cup

December 5, 2019
● 5:30 p.m. ●
Downtown Swainsboro

ASK YOUR CLUB ADVISOR FOR MORE INFO!

Show off your Bobcat pride at the Swainsboro Christmas Parade! All clubs and organizations of East Georgia State College are invited to enter the parade in their quest to claim the *Bobcat Santa Cup* and bragging rights for having the best EGSC entry in the parade. There is no fee to enter and the winning entry will be presented with a trophy that will be passed to the club or organization that wins the contest the following year. Entries will be judged based on creativity and may feature walking groups, floats, cars/trucks, or golf carts.